

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Director of the Community Health and Care Partnership

Community Health and Care Partnership Committee: 19 February 2014

Subject: Provision of maintenance for stair lifts previously installed in non Council & Housing Association properties

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To provide a review of the new procedure introduced in January 2013 for stair lift maintenance and installation in non council and housing association properties.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** It is recommended that the new process introduced last year is adopted on a permanent basis.

3. Background

- 3.1** Following a review of the costs of the grant scheme in which owner occupiers were financially assessed and a proportion of the cost met by Council it was agreed that from the 1st of January 2013 all such applications would be funded in full if the client's assessment recommended it, including the costs of the ongoing maintenance of the equipment. It was recommended that following the first full year, a report on the trial year be provided to Committee to approve the full adoption of this process.

4. Main Issues

The Council as a partner of the Equipu service is benefiting from significant cost savings for the purchase installation and maintenance of stair lifts for those with an assessed need and the cost of ongoing maintenance.

- 4.1** Feed back from Occupational Therapy managers and Occupational Therapy staff has been positive in respect of the service received from Equipu.
- 4.2** Comparing 2013 (the first full year of the pilot) with 2012, the number of stairlift installations has remained static. The total costs for 2012 and 2013 are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1

	2012	£	2013	£
Straight Stair Lift	11	18,661.00	13	19,583.00
Curved Stair Lift	14	62,498.00	11	36,236.00
Maintenance	25		24	15,000.00
Total		81,159.00		70,819.00

- 4.3** Only 12 % of owner occupiers would have made a contribution under the previous scheme.
- 4.4** The CHCP assumed the maintenance costs of our routine new installations and the total cost for 2013 is approximately £15k.
- 4.5** Overall the service has delivered equitable access to stair lifts for local authority and owner occupiers within the revised budget

5. People Implications

- 5.1** None

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1** The Grant Funded Scheme had a budget of £90k to support owner occupiers to install stair lifts. Owner occupiers were financially assessed and a contribution was sought. A review in 2012 demonstrated that by using Equipu the unit cost of starlift installation would fall below the Local Authority contribution and therefore make it possible to fully fund these adaptations and provide equitable access whatever the housing tenure from within the budget. it would also include repairs, maintenance and replacement.
- 6.2** Although the costs for 2013 were less than the previous year (see Table 1), the benefits of more efficient procurement will only partially offset future pressures. These will include an exponential rise in the number of new stairlift installations and the cost of maintenance and repairs for the total number of stairlifts in use. This is likely to meet the previous level of grant aided expenditure (£90,000) by 2016 and continue to rise.

7. Risk Analysis

- 7.1** None

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 8.1** The proposal seeks to ensure that all clients with an assessed need get access to appropriate aids and equipment.

8.2 This ensures that all those assessed as requiring a stair lift and maintenance can receive these regardless of housing tenure.

9. Consultation

9.1 No additional consultation has been undertaken.

10. Strategic Assessment

10.1 The new policy on stair lift provision and maintenance continues to contribute to the strategic objectives by;

- Improving care for and promoting the independence of older people;
- Improving local housing and environmentally sustainable infrastructure; and
- Improving the well-being of communities and protect the welfare of vulnerable people.



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Date: 29 January 2014

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Appendices None

Background Papers None

Wards Affected: All.