



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL CABINET
6 April 2004

Report of the Social Care and Health Commission

Derby Integrated Community Equipment Service

RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 Note the report.
- 1.2 To recommend to Council Cabinet that:
 - a) It reviews the existing arrangements for assessing and providing minor technical aids. Especially in instances where the cost of assessment is significantly higher than the cost of equipment provided.
 - b) It tracks expenditure attributable to each organisation at the point of ordering, to ensure that both organisations are contributing their fair share to the overall budget and in determining responsibility for funding any overspend

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The administrative cost for carrying out an assessment and providing small value equipment to older and disabled people can sometimes be considerably higher than the value of the item. The Adaptations Topic Review report submitted to the Cabinet in February 2003 found that the average waiting time for carrying out needs assessment had come down to six weeks. The Government targets to be achieved by December 2004 for all assessments of older people require the assessment to begin within 48 hours of first contact with social services and for the assessment to be completed within four weeks, (with 70% within two weeks).
- 2.2 The Commission therefore recommends that the Council Cabinet reviews its procedure for ordering small value items specifically with regard to the administrative costs associated with providing such equipment and publish basic criteria to enable prospective applicants to undertake self-assessment. This should help to reduce the pressure on the occupational therapists time, reduce waiting times for needs assessment, and make better use of limited resources.
- 2.3 The Commission was informed that Social Services would be providing a single point of access for requisitioning equipment although the budgets will be managed separately between the Trusts and Social Services. The Commission was concerned that in case there is an overspend in the community equipment budget in future, Social Services may be expected to meet the additional costs. The Commission therefore recommends that the Social Services adopt a flexible approach and monitor the budgets closely in the first year and any overspend in the

budget in subsequent years in relation to the health element is recharged to the NHS.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Commission considered a report on providing integrated community equipment service for the people of Derby from 1 April in partnership with the Central and Greater Derby Primary Care Trusts. The Commission considered this report at its February meeting and give its recommendations.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4. None.

For more information contact:	Mahroof Hussain 01332 255597 e-mail mahroof.hussain@derby.gov.uk
Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. None resulting from this report.

Legal

2. None

Personnel

3. None resulting from this report.

Corporate Themes and Priorities

- 4.1 This report meets to the Council's key objectives of **integrated, cost effective services** that respond to customers' and community needs, rather than those of the Council and **protecting and supporting people** – through social, education, housing and health care services working together to protect vulnerable adults and children, reduce health inequalities and help people live independent lives in the way they choose.
- 4.2 It also satisfies the Council's priority **improving life chances for disadvantaged people and communities; and enabling people to live independent lives they choose.**

