



## **SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 18<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2023**

**SUBJECT: EQUIPMENT AND ADAPTATIONS**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND  
HOUSING**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT -**

1.1 This report provides information for members of the Social Service Scrutiny to note on the provision of equipment and adaptations to residents.

### **2. SUMMARY**

2.1 This report provides information for members of the Social Service Scrutiny to note on the provision of equipment and adaptations to residents.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 Members note the content of the report.

### **4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 The report is for information only.

### **5. THE REPORT**

5.1 The Community Occupational Therapy Team (COT) are primarily responsible for the assessment and provision of equipment and recommending minor and major adaptations.

5.2 Occupational Therapists are also employed in the Community Resource Team (CRT) and Housing they can also prescribe equipment and adaptations, however the date in this report refers directly to the COT team.

5.3 The COT service is in very high demand which has increased post covid. In the current financial year to date (as of 15<sup>th</sup> March) the COT team has received **2,550**

requests for assessment as a result of this high demand requests are prioritised ensuring those in greatest need are seen first.

- 5.4 CCBC waiting times for COT assessment are amongst the lowest in Wales with the maximum wait for assessment currently at 4 weeks for low priority requests. High priority cases will usually be allocated within 24 hours. Therefore, in spite of current pressures the lead time from request for assessment to provision will be no longer than 8 weeks for equipment or minor adaptations. In many instances it will be much quicker if considered a priority.
- 5.5 Outcome of assessments has resulted in **1,700** requests for adaptations. **1250** for minor adaptations, and **450** for major adaptations. Adaptations are provided by housing.
- 5.6 **Minor Works of Adaptation** Social Services have an allocated annual budget of **£268,616** to provide minor adaptations to the residents of Caerphilly which is managed by Housing. This is a non means tested grant to provide any adaptations free of charge up to **£1,000**.
- 5.7 All home owners council tenants and tenants with private landlords can access this grant. Housing associations have their own allocated budget from Welsh Government to undertake this type of work, though the need is assessed by CCBC Occupational Therapy (OT) staff for all tenures.
- 5.8 A minor Works of Adaptations (WOA) can be used to provide any adaptations up to **£1000** which will enable independence, or promote safety, prevent hospital admission, facilitate hospital discharge etc. as well as promoting the safety of carers. Any adaptation request which is reasonable and practicable can be considered, though the most common uses of this budget is to provide handrails/grab rails/half-steps/door widening/improved access/key-safe installation/fold-down shower seats.
- 5.9 In the current financial year to date, as of 15<sup>th</sup> March the local authority has undertaken **1,250** minor WOA's. All work is carried out within 20 working days of the assessment. If the requirement is considered urgent then it can be installed within 24 hours e.g. if the adaptation is necessary to facilitate a hospital discharge or prevent admission etc.
- 5.10 **Equipment**
- CCBC is a member of GWICES Gwent Wide Integrated Equipment Service (GWICES). This consists of Caerphilly, Torfaen, Newport, Monmouth and Blaenau Gwent LA's as well as ABUHB. All partners contribute proportionately to the equipment service. It is the largest joint equipment service in Wales. Due to economy of scale it ensures that we can procure equipment at competitive prices.
- 5.11 GWICES is managed by Cefendy Medequip which is a sheltered workshop.
- 5.12 Recyclability is also given a priority to ensure that equipment is collected and re-used wherever possible to aid sustainability and keep costs to a minimum. As the equipment is shared between the 6 partners the availability of items is vast with access to a host of equipment which will ensure the safety of service users and their carers as well as preventing hospital admission and facilitating discharge. Items provided can range from bath lifts to complex seating to moving and handling equipment. There are literally hundreds of items of equipment provided by the stores.

- 5.13 Equipment is either stock or subject to a special order for a bespoke item of equipment, budgetary authorisation is required for specialist orders.
- 5.14 As well as delivery, collection and recycling of the equipment the stores will undertake the necessary mandatory health and safety testing and servicing of equipment. Many items will need to be serviced every 6 months according to LOLER regulations.
- 5.15 In the current financial year (as of 15<sup>th</sup> March) CCBC have issued **7,288** items of equipment to the residents of Caerphilly. All items are delivered within 5 working days of assessment though there is the facility for a same day delivery if the need is considered a priority.
- 5.16 GWICES is also currently responsible for distributing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) from Welsh Government to each local authority for distribution to all registered care providers.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

The information provide in the report demonstrates a significant improvement in waiting times for assessment since the pandemic despite the fact there has been no reduction in demand.

## **7. ASSUMPTIONS**

- 7.1 This report assumes demand will remain constant for provision of equipment and adaptations.

## **8. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 8.1 This report is for information only item therefor a completed IIA is not necessary at this stage.

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

## **10. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this report.

## **11. CONSULTATIONS**

- 11. The views of the consultees have been reflected within the report.

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Consultees: Dave Street Corporate Director Social Services

Councillor Donna Cushing, Chair Social Services Scrutiny  
Councillor Marina Chacon-Dawson, Vice Chair Social Services Scrutiny  
Councillor Elaine Forehead, Cabinet Member for Social Services  
Jo Williams Head of Adult Services