

**Agenda Item No: 3**

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET MEMBER**

**REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR – ADULT CARE**

**9th October 2013**

**Assistive technology to support care assessment and personalisation**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

To seek Cabinet Member approval for expenditure of up to £50,000 for the purchase of assistive technology and associated running costs to support care assessment and personalisation.

**2. Information and Analysis**

The assistive technology referred to in this report involves collecting detailed information about a person's daily activities when they are unable to tell us directly. For example, it can establish accurately whether people get up during the night, and if they do, how many times and for what purpose.

The proposal is designed to determine how much care a person requires. It involves the collection of considerable information about their actions and activities during the day and at night. This information can then be used to inform decisions about the appropriate level of care and support required for the client.

Assistive technology is now available such as "Just Checking" that is particularly useful in recording people's actions and activities in an unobtrusive way (requires no active input from those being assessed). Its use is particularly helpful in relation to people with dementia and people with learning disabilities who can find it difficult to tell social

workers accurately what their pattern of daily activities is. Just Checking is only used with consent from the client and or their carer.

The approach has already been used by the Adult Care Department in a limited pilot and there is scope to extend its usage for a wider number of people.

The assistive technology solution requires no active input from the person being assessed because as a person conducts their daily living activities sensors are triggered which record data on a chart. This data provides an objective, reliable and continuous information about the individual's abilities to perform daily tasks. This activity data is collected and analysed by Adult Care to determine the appropriate care package which is personalised and appropriate to meet the individuals' assessed needs.

The pilot undertaken by the Adult Care Department has been cost effective. Its use for 3 people resulted in an annual gross saving of £15,416. Taking into account the equipment and data analysis costs; there was a net saving to the council of £4,972. The pilot also was associated with enhanced care packages which enabled greater choice and support to people in their own homes for longer. Any reduction in care packages is only done within the context of a full reassessment of care needs.

### **3. Procurement of equipment and support**

The equipment and support will be procured via the Government Procurement Service's (GPS) Assistive Technology Framework Agreement. In the event that it is not possible to determine which supplier within the framework can deliver best value for money from the detail given in the framework catalogue then the Council will need to carry out a further competition in accordance with GPS guidance notes.

The GPS established the Framework Agreement via a compliant EU competition and to cover its costs levies a management charge on suppliers on the framework which is currently calculated at 1% of all charges for equipment and services invoiced to customers (net of VAT) by the supplier. The supplier is not entitled to recharge this management charge to the Council or any customer.

#### **4. Financial Considerations**

One off funding to cover the whole contract term of up to £50,000 has been obtained from the local NHS to meet the equipment and running costs.

Implementation and staff training costs will be covered by existing resources.

#### **5. Other Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity; and environmental, health, human resources, property and transport considerations.

#### **6. Key Decision**

No

#### **7. Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in this report?**

No

#### **8. OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/S**

That Cabinet Member:

- approves the expenditure of up to £50,000 for the purchase of Assistive Technology to support care assessment and personalisation,
- receives a progress report in approximately twelve months' time.

**Bill Robertson**  
**Strategic Director – Adult Care**

**County Hall**  
**MATLOCK**