

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

24 July 2012

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR – ADULT CARE**

EXPANSION OF TELECARE AND HANDY VAN PROJECT

1. Purpose of the Report

To consider and approve an expansion of the current Telecare/Handy Van Project administered by Adult Care.

2. Information and Analysis

The Derbyshire Handy Van Network Scheme was established in April 2008 and was launched in August 2008. It is delivered through a partnership of providers who deliver services across Derbyshire in order to help older and vulnerable people to live independently in their homes. It is proposed to provide assistance to a further group of clients by providing them with Telecare services. These services provide a 24/7 emergency response for clients who are living independently.

The proposed project has two significant benefits:

- It will provide an opportunity for approximately 550 vulnerable people and their carers to benefit from the provision of Telecare equipment installed by the Handy Van Service.
- The same group of people will receive a full Health and Well-Being check and response from the Handy Van Service.

Telecare and alarm equipment will be installed at the property of vulnerable people who:

- Are at risk of falling or who have previously fallen – summoning help following a fall is achieved by simply pressing the personal radio trigger provided;
Or
- Have medical conditions (eg diabetes and epilepsy) – help can be quickly summoned if the user begins to feel unwell;
Or
- Have recently been discharged from hospital and who may be at risk of falling.

The Telecare equipment will be installed in people's homes and they may also wear an alarm pendant either around the neck, on a wristband or on a waistband. It is small, discreet and triggered by pressing the red centre button. Derbyshire Alarms' Centre staff will monitor and respond to the calls and in the event of an emergency the staff will alert the nominated contact, doctor or request the emergency services, as appropriate.

At the same time as delivering and installing the Telecare equipment, the Handy Van Service will also complete a Health and Well-Being check for the client which includes:

- Home fire safety checks
- Smoke alarms provided and installed
- Home security checks
- Security equipment provided and installed
- Energy efficiency advice
- Practical tasks – eg
 - Changing light bulbs
 - Securing carpets/rugs
 - Removing and hanging curtains
 - Checking stair rails are secure and appropriate
 - Path and door access clearance
 - Securing tap washers to reduce dripping taps
- Helping where possible with small DIY tasks or minor repairs.

The cost of the Telecare equipment/package is approximately £380 per client. This one-off cost covers all the equipment/installation costs including trigger, sensor, pressure mat and fall detector, as well as the administrative charge to manage and programme the equipment. In line with current charging policy the charge to the individual receiving the 24/7 monitoring and response service would be a maximum of £5.00/week plus VAT.

In order to get this equipment installed as quickly as possible it is also proposed to temporarily increase (for one year) the Handy Van fleet by one driver/van. This can be achieved within the existing contract for the service.

3. Financial Considerations

The cost of providing Telecare equipment for 550 clients is approximately £210,000. In addition, the temporary employment of one Handy Van person and a lease van for twelve months will be a further £40,000. These one off costs of £250,000 in total can be funded from Corporate Resources/Chief Executive's 2011/12 outturn underspend.

4. Legal Considerations

Investment in prevention and strategies for early intervention are key themes promoted by the Department of Health in its Guidance on Eligibility Criteria, 'Prioritising Need'.

5. Other Considerations

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

7. Background Papers

8. Key Decision - No

9. Call In

Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? – No

10. OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet approves the expenditure of £250,000 to meet the costs of expanding the Telecare/Handy Van Project administered by Adult Care to another 550 clients.

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