
MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Responsible Cabinet Member(s) – Councillor Eleanor Lister, Social Services Portfolio

Responsible Director(s) –Margaret Asquith, Director of Social Services

Purpose of Report

1. To approve the release of a Department of Health supported capital expenditure of £78,000 for the purchase of Information Communication Technology (ICT) resources within Darlington's integrated Health and Social Services Community Mental Health Teams.

Information and Analysis

2. Supported capital expenditure of £78,000, has been secured from the Department of Health, for the period 2004/5. The supported borrowing is awarded in order to improve information management and the integration of electronic records within Mental Health Services.
3. Investment is needed to support modern ICT resources in order to:
 - a) Provide adequate updated network resources/ICT; and
 - b) Enable better quality performance information to be produced and to develop electronic client records.

This can be achieved by using the capital grant to fund upgrades to existing dial-up & network lines and personal computers.

Outcome of Consultation

4. No consultation was required in producing this report.

Legal Implications

5. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

6. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Council Policy Framework

7. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework

Decision Deadline

8. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter.

Recommendation

9. It is recommended that Members approve the release of £78,000, Mental Health Supported capital expenditure.

Reason

10. The recommendation will allow the Mental Health Service associated teams to have better quality access to Social Services systems in order to facilitate the integrated electronic client record and to provide better quality information.

**Margaret Asquith
Director of Social Services**

Background Papers

Local Authority Circular LAC (2004) 10 - "Mental Health Supported Capital Expenditure" – 16/03/04

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