
**RELEASE OF ADULTS PERSONAL SOCIAL SERVICES
CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS**

**Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor Veronica Copeland,
Adult Social Care and Housing Portfolio**

Responsible Director – Murray Rose, Director of People

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. This report seeks approval for the release of £75k from the Adults PSS Capital Allocation for the upgrade of Lifeline Services equipment at the Council's three Extra Care schemes.

Summary

2. There is currently £527k available to spend on capital projects to enable continued capital investment to support delivery of Adult Social Care services. Previously funding was provided to support the voluntary sector to respond to new service delivery models. A need has now arisen to replace the Lifeline equipment in Extra Care schemes at Dalkeith House, Oban Court and Rosemary Court.
3. The existing technology is outdated and there are a number of black spots in each of the buildings. Multi-use handsets are required for use by on-site Home Care and Lifeline teams and the new technology would allow more than one person to use the system at the same time. The new technology also provides enhanced reporting facilities and supports care reviews. This will improve communication between the teams and improve the service provided to the residents of our Extra Care schemes.

Recommendation

4. It is recommended that capital grant funding of £75k is approved to upgrade the technology in the Extra Care Schemes at Dalkeith House, Oban Court and Rosemary Court.

Reason

5. The recommendation is supported by the following reasons :-
 - (a) The existing technology is outdated and no longer fit for purpose.

- (b) The new technology will improve the quality and efficiency of the services provided in the Council's Extra Care Schemes.

Murray Rose, Director of People

Background Papers

No Background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Hazel Neasham : Extension 2535

S17 Crime and Disorder	This will have no negative impact on Crime and Disorder
Health and Well Being	This proposal will have a positive impact on health And well being by ensuring improved communication between professionals and service users.
Sustainability	There are no sustainability issues
Diversity	This project will improve access to services for vulnerable and at risk groups
Wards Affected	Mowden, Lascelles and Haughton West
Groups Affected	Tenants of Extra care housing
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not recommend a change
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	The equipment would benefit from being replaced as soon as possible
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This will contribute strongly towards delivering Darlington's Sustainable Community Strategy - One Darlington: Perfectly Placed
Efficiency	The proposals outlined will increase efficiency by greater and closer collaboration between health and social care.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

Description of Proposal

6. Adults Personal Social Services (PSS) capital grant funding is allocated using the Relative Needs Formulae Priorities for investment are:-
 - (a) Innovative alternatives to residential care including Extra Care.
 - (b) Alternatives to residential care via community based services investment.
 - (c) Service redesign to the care infrastructure.

Proposal

7. The proposal is to upgrade the call technology in the Council's three Extra Care Schemes at Dalkeith House, Oban Court and Rosemary Court. The existing technology was installed when the schemes were remodelled and whilst there have been minor upgrades it is now outdated and unable to function at the level required. The new installations will operate using cordless handsets and will improve the coverage available for both the Home Care and Lifeline staff. The availability of more speech paths will also improve flexibility as staff will not be limited to the calls they make and receive. All calls will be logged onto a Touch Screen Managers Terminal which will provide a comprehensive calls history. Separate door entry handsets for each apartment will overcome the problems and restrictions prevalent with the current combined units. There is also a local off-site facility allowing calls to be made and received remotely from other schemes to provide flexible staffing solutions.

Outcomes

8. The upgraded technology would deliver the following outcomes:
 - (a) Improved communication between Lifeline and Home Care staff
 - (b) A more responsive and supportive service for residents and their visitors.
 - (c) Better support to residents to live independently and safely in their own homes.
 - (d) Provide a more efficient and effective service.
 - (e) Provide enhanced performance data to support service delivery.

Procurement

9. Due to the specialist nature an order can be placed for the equipment as a direct award subject to the appropriate Non-competitive Purchase procedures being complied with.

Financial Implications

10. There is currently unallocated PSS capital funding of £527,112 available of which £260,133 was received for 2011/12 and £266,979 in 2012/13. Currently no other capital schemes have been identified.