

**Cabinet - 14<sup>th</sup> June 2006**

**Report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Service**

**INTRODUCTION OF PREVENTATIVE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY  
(Telecare)**

**Purpose of Report**

1. The Purpose of this report is to provide Cabinet with information about the Preventative Assistive Technology Grant 2006 – 2008 and proposals for the implementation of Telecare in Dudley Borough.

**Background**

2. In 2001, the Department of Health produced a health and Local Authority circular (HSC 2001/008: LAC (2001)13), on integrating community equipment services. The circular made reference to the emerging electronic assistive technology originally based on extensions to community alarm systems.
3. Since 2001 there has been growing interest in the potential of remote technology to support housing, community safety and health options as well as supporting domiciliary care packages. With the development of Intermediate Care, long-term condition management and alternatives to acute hospital admissions the technology has moved further.
4. Another form of Telecare, often referred to as “Telemedicine” is designed to complement healthcare. Telemedicine monitors vital signs such as blood pressure and transmits the data to a response centre or Clinician’s computer.
5. The Government has made available £553,000 over the next year to help extend the availability of Telecare and Telemedicine across the Borough. Telecare is an extension of the Council’s existing ‘Home Call’ Service which provides 24 hour support to over 6,000 households. The grant will allow us to provide a service for more residents and also extend the ways in which support can be offered.
6. Existing users of the service will have access to pull cords or pendant to make contact with Home Call and many of them also have smoke detectors linked to the system. The extension of the service will allow us to provide a wider range of support based on an individual’s assessed needs. Telecare technology can monitor such issues as fall detection, pill dispensing, client wandering and natural gas detection. This will allow us to support a wide range of people in the community as part of a package of care involving the clients, their families and professional support.

7. The provision of a Telecare service is about more than the equipment that is provided. An important part of developing this service in Dudley is to make sure that we have the right support available 24 hours a day to reassure clients and their carers. We aim to provide 900 households with an extended Telecare service over the next two years.
8. Telemedicine is designed to complement healthcare. It uses similar technology to Telecare and can monitor vital signs such as blood pressure and blood sugar levels. This information can then be sent to a specialist monitoring centre or directly to a health professional's computer.
9. By monitoring the data a Clinician can see if their patient's condition is changing – which can prompt appropriate action from them. Potentially this type of monitoring could help pick up a deterioration in someone's condition before a crisis occurs, or it could enable a patient to come home whilst still being monitored for improvement, these kind of potential savings could result in the Primary Care Trusts (PCT) choosing to invest in Telemedicine.
10. We will be supporting the PCT to make a decision on the cost benefits of investing in Telemedicines such as Wristcare or other similar monitoring devices. This will involve a trial which will help them determine their future approach towards this.
11. D.A.C.H.S would propose to concentrate on Telecare for elderly and vulnerable people as a means of maintaining them in their own homes and as a preventative approach for people who just need low levels of support. We would propose the PCT decide how they want to use Telemedicine in preventing hospital admission and managing long term conditions and how they can redirect savings from hospital care to early intervention in the community.

## **Proposals**

12. Cabinet is asked to note the availability of grant funding to extend Preventative Assistive Technology in Dudley. It is proposed that this additional funding is used to supplement the existing commitment of the Council by purchasing additional Telecare equipment to monitor clients, providing assessment and visiting support for vulnerable residents and support the introduction of Telemedicine in partnership with the Primary Care Trust.
13. That the Council be recommended that the capital element of any expenditure be included in the capital programme.

## **Finance**

14. The introduction of the Preventative Assistive Technology Grant in April 2006 will serve to pump-prime implementation. The allocations to Dudley MBC (based on current allocation formulae are:
  - 2006/07 - £207,000
  - 2006/07 - £346,000

15. It will be necessary to address funding arrangements associated with those of Homecall and those of Social Care Services in respect of Capital and Revenue costs. Cabinet are asked to approve the spending of the Preventative Assistive Technology Grant solely on Telecare Services for the people of the Borough.

## **Law**

16. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 empowers the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of its various statutory functions.

## **Human Resources**

17. It is anticipated that the 'care response' element may require additional resources over and above those currently available from the Homecall Service and Sheltered Housing Staff.

## **Equality Impact**

18. There are no additional Equality and Diversity implications associated with this report.
19. There are no implications for children and young people arising from this report.

## **Safety Implications**

20. There are no additional safety and community implications associated with this report.
21. The implementation of Telecare will contribute to the Council Plan in respect of:
- Support to (predominately) older people to live at home and to increase independence (Caring matters/Safety matters).
  - Continuation of work with other agencies to promote the health and well-being of vulnerable adults (Quality Matters).

## **Community Implications**

22. There are no additional community implications associated with this report apart from the impact of enhanced partnership working across the Borough by partner organisations to effect:
- Older people receiving joined up services in a way that improves quality of life.
  - Older people being involved in making decisions about issues that affect our lives and communities in which they live.
  - Older people feeling safe and secure in their home and their neighbourhoods.

23. Telecare should be viewed as a solution to *support people living in the community*.

### **Recommendations**

24. That Cabinet approve the proposals contained in (11) above.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Sanders". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, loopsy 'L' at the beginning.

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**Linda Sanders**  
**Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services**

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