



INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

Report Title	Scheme of Assistance Private Sector Grants Budget 2017/18
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Report Author (Job Title, Organisation)	Jenny Laing, Occupational Therapy Manager, Bon Accord Care
Report Number	HSCP.17.108
Date of Report	1 st December 2017
Date of Meeting	12 th December 2017

1: Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. This report is presented in order to provide information on the Scheme of Assistance budget. This budget was delegated to the Integration Joint Board (IJB) and is currently managed by Aberdeen City Council on the IJB's behalf. The 2017/18 budget of £770,000 is now fully committed. This now means that there are in delays in progressing new applications for the fund.

2: Summary of Key Information

- 2.1. The Scheme of Assistance (Appendix A) operates in order to support the adaptation of an existing private property to meet the needs of an occupant who is disabled. The level of grant provided is set by the Scottish Government at a minimum of 80% of eligible costs, with 100% of cost being met for applicants on certain benefits. The Scottish Government also specifies that certain adaptations are mandatory while others are at the discretion of the local authority. A list of the types of equipment purchased through mandatory and discretionary grant schemes is set out in appendix. While some of the grant assistance provided is discretionary the provision of stair-lifts/hoists are an extremely cost-effective way of providing continued access to the standard amenities (bathroom) in a disabled person's property.
- 2.2. Applicants are assessed currently by Bon Accord Care (BAC) Occupational Therapy service under the current BAC contract. This



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assessment is first and foremost of the person's ability to function in their own environment. If a need is identified there are set criteria for the provision of each adaptation. These criteria are tenure neutral, so are irrespective of who owns the service user's property. If it is recommended that an adaptation is needed it is property owner's responsibility to provide the adaptation. Private home owners have access to the Scheme of Assistance for financial support to carry out the recommended adaptations. A different arrangement is in place to support adaptations in Council owned housing.

- 2.3. Spend on this budget has been relatively stable, but has overspent in the last few financial years, due to increasing demand. The overspend has previously been covered by other budgets. Given this budget is now delegated, responsibility for managing the over commitment on this budget now lies with the IJB.
- 2.4. The spending trend looks set to continue in 2017/18 and a hold has been put on any further spend from this budget until additional funding has been identified. It is estimated that there are in the region of £250,000 of applications for adaptations waiting to be processed which could be spent and accounted for by the end of the financial year (31st of March 2018). The split of this is 80% for mandatory and 20% for discretionary grants. It should be noted that adaptations are arranged privately and as such the timing of spending individual grants is at the discretion of the home owner. This can make forecasting actual spend problematic.
- 2.5. Per application, adaptations are a relatively low cost intervention, essential for delivering on the Integration outcomes of people being able to live safely in their own communities. The impact of adaptation, prevents hospital admissions, facilitates discharges and prevents/delays the requirement for support, either from unpaid carers, or a formal care package or residential placement. In 2010 the Scottish Government carried out a Social Return on Investment study of adaptations (see Appendix C). The research demonstrated a significant positive Social Return on Investment and also substantial well-being benefits to people through them being able to maintain their independence, autonomy and relationships.
- 2.6. The research demonstrated that an average cost of £2,800 adaptation, leads to:
 - £7,500 saving through reduced need for publicly funded care home



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provision.

- £1,100 saving through increased safety and reduced hospitalisation of tenants
- £1,700 saving through reduced need for social care provision
- £4,700 saving through reduced need for tenants to fund their own care home provision

2.7. Research demonstrates that on average each adaptation could save the health and social care system over £10,000. This equates to:

- An additional 483 hours of home care, or
- An additional 19 weeks in a nursing home, or
- Two orthopaedic operations.

2.8. It should be noted that, beyond the 2010 research, there is also clear evidence that the timely provision of appropriate adaptations supports positive 'flow' through the wider health and social care system. Hospital discharge into the community and also flow into and out of the Partnership's interim and intermediate bed base is predicated on the ongoing accessibility of adaptations to patients/clients.

Options

2.9. The IJB has three options in respect of addressing this issue in the immediate future and these are:

- a) Maintain the current position and hold the applications until budget becomes available in the new financial year. This will impact on the next financial year's budget if the demand profile is maintained; or
- b) Undertake a review of the Scheme and its operation in order to stabilise and align with the IJB's Strategic Plan and provide additional, one off, funding of £250,000 from the integration and change fund in order to meet current demand in year as well as carry out the review; or
- c) Undertake a review of the Scheme and its operation in order to stabilise and align with the IJB's Strategic Plan and provide additional, one off, funding of £200,000 from the integration and change fund in order to meet current demand for the mandatory adaptations in year as well as carry out the review.



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Option Appraisal

- 2.10 Maintaining the current position will not address the underlying increasing pressure on this budget but will increase pressure in the next financial year. Therefore option A is **not** recommended.
- 2.11 While the discretionary adaptations could be held until next financial year. These play an important part in keeping people in their own homes which fits well with the IJB's strategic direction. Therefore, option C is **not** recommended.
- 2.12 In order to meet the current recommendations for adaptations and seek to stabilise the use of this Grant and review the Scheme, option B is **recommended**.

Appendices:

- A. Scheme of Assistance.
- B. Equipment purchased through mandatory and discretionary grant schemes.
- C. The Benefits of Equipment and Adaptation (Scottish Government 2010).
- D. Direction to Aberdeen City Council

3: Equalities, Financial, Workforce and Other Implications

Equality

- 3.1. The applicants to this scheme are disproportionately older adults and adults with chronic illness and/or long term disabilities. Whilst 'age' and 'disability' are protected equality characteristics, it is not anticipated that there will be anything other than positive implications for both groups if the recommendations from this report are approved. Currently applicants to the scheme are having a delay in their assessed need being met. If the recommendations of this report are not approved, these applicants face a wait until the new financial year for approval of funds to support their adaptation (please note if individuals proceed with works privately, no retrospective funding is granted from the Scheme of Assistance).



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Financial

- 3.2. As reported the above adaptation works are relatively low cost and can produce high impact results both for the service users themselves and for public funded care provision. If the recommendation is agreed, then the additional £250,000 will be allocated from the integration and change fund on a one-off basis – this will enable alignment of the Scheme to the IJB's Strategic Ambitions and support the HSCP in considering options for transforming how adaptations are delivered as a preventative service.

4: Management of Risk

Identified risk(s): Failure to deliver transformation at a pace or scale required by the demographic and financial pressures in the system.

Link to risk number on strategic or operational risk register: 9 (strategic).

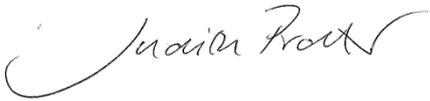
How might the content of this report impact or mitigate the known risks:

Adaptations are a low-cost, preventative intervention which helps prevent admissions facilitates discharges and prevents or delays the requirement for support. As such, agreeing the funding outlined in the recommendation below will help to reduce costs, contributing towards relieving financial pressures elsewhere in the system and therefore contributing towards the delivery of transformation.



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5:	Recommendations
<p>It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="277 589 1374 658">1. Agrees additional funding of £250,000 in 2017/18 from the integration and change fund, to prevent delays in processing requests for adaptations.<li data-bbox="277 696 1390 949">2. Instructs the Head of Strategy and Transformation to form a short-life working group, including representatives from Bon Accord Care, Aberdeen City Council and the ACHSCP, to undertake a review of the Scheme of Assistance policy and full working practices in order to ensure demand and budget are managed as efficiently and effectively as possible. This work needs to be completed and should be brought back to the IJB on 30 March 2018.<li data-bbox="277 994 1326 1102">3. Instructs the Chief Officer to issue a direction to Aberdeen City Council allocating an additional £250,000 to the private adaptations budget (attached).	

6:	Signatures
	Judith Proctor (Chief Officer)
	Alex Stephen (Chief Finance Officer)