

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET
24TH APRIL 2008

Worcestershire Telecare Strategy

OPEN	
COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME	Improved Health and Wellbeing
CORPORATE PLAN THEME:	Enabling Community Wellbeing
KEY PRIORITY:	Housing
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Mrs. A.T. Hingley
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Head of Planning Health and Environment
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APPENDICES	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To confirm the Council's agreement to the Countywide Strategy for Telecare 2007 - 2011.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to DECIDE:

- 2.1 **To agree the Countywide strategy for Telecare 2007 - 2011 which has been developed using a partnership approach with Worcestershire County Council, the District Council's and the Worcestershire Primary Care Trust and other stakeholders.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Telecare has the potential as part of a support package to help people retain their independence and improve their quality of life. Telecare equipment plays a significant role in preventing the need for active intervention by social care and health partners, enabling the partner's resources to be spread more widely.
- 3.2 The District Councils and Housing Associations already provide a range of telecare services through four monitoring and response centres' based within the County. Government policy has identified the need to develop a more cohesive and co-ordinated approach to delivering Telecare Services. This new approach and

development of the strategy has been led by Worcestershire County Council in partnership with key agencies using a Telecare Project Steering Group.

- 3.3 The full strategy and associated documents are to be found under links in the Background papers section. This sets out more detail on what telecare is and how it can be used.

The Preventative Technology Grant

- 3.4 Worcestershire County Council has been allocated £300,000 in 2006/7 and £500,000 in 2007/8 from the national Preventative Technology Grant. The grant will make a significant contribution to the provision of Telecare services in the County. The government has agreed that councils can roll these funds forward to be spent until the end of March 2009. According to the Department of Health, the Preventative Technology Grant should be used to increase the numbers of people who are supported to remain independent with Telecare. It is expected that most of the beneficiaries will be older people. The grant should be used to increase the numbers of people who benefit from Telecare, by at least 160,000 older people nationally.

Who will benefit from Telecare Services in Worcestershire?

- 3.5 In Worcestershire, Telecare services will be delivered primarily to older people, however the services will also be accessible by younger adults and for the benefit of children where such technology could help them remain safely in the community. Telecare services will not be provided for adults or older people in long term residential care establishments, or to assist such establishments who introduce Telecare systems of their own.
- 3.6 This strategy encompasses Telecare equipment which can be;
- provided for free by the County Council to older people, and adults with physical disabilities or a sensory impairment, who have been assessed by Adult and Community Services as having critical and substantial needs. This is due to funding being made available from the Department of Health through an allocation of Preventative Technology Grant for the period of 2006 – 2009.
 - Provided on a rental basis by District Council and Registered Social Landlord providers for those on low incomes, and
 - Private purchase for those who can afford it from the District Council and Registered Social Landlord providers within the County.

Summary of Strategic Aims

- 3.7 The strategic aims for all partners to this Strategy for the development of Telecare across the county over the next four years are;
- I. Deliver a phased roll-out of mainstream Telecare across the County in an equitable and sustainable way, so that by April 2011 the majority of adults requiring support and care (and their carers) are able to access and benefit from Telecare services, whether provided by the County Council, local District Councils, Registered Social Landlords, or, the voluntary sector

- II. Focus the County Council service on meeting the needs of older people and adults with physical disabilities or a sensory impairment, who have been assessed by Adult and Community Services as having critical and substantial needs. District Council and Registered Social Landlord providers will ensure that telecare is also available to people with lower level needs which will help prevent that person's needs from becoming substantial, for instance following a fall.
- III. Ensure the County Council, District Councils, Registered Social Landlord and Voluntary Sector providers work together to provide maximum choice of telecare services for local vulnerable residents, both in terms of the range of equipment provided and the charging arrangements to ensure all needs can be met.
- IV. Provide Telecare services alongside a wide range of other complimentary options which together, as an individually tailored package, will support people to live independently in their own homes for as long as possible, should this be their preference.
- V. Work in partnership to ensure that Telecare services are more widely accessible, acceptable and understood by all those who could benefit from Telecare.
- VI. Increase the uptake of Telecare services by communicating the potential benefits to service users and carers and by providing Telecare opportunities in a diverse range of existing service settings across health, housing and social care.
- VII. Work together to develop Telecare services and associated initiatives which will assist Adult and Community Services, Housing Authorities and Health agencies to achieve key performance indicators.
- VIII. Continue to explore innovative ways in which telecare can be used to improve efficiencies in health, social care and housing service provision to the benefit of local residents.
- IX. Review the Strategy in 2008 and develop the detailed commissioning intentions for 2009-2011, when there is greater clarity about future funding streams.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None arising from the strategy, but there are potential financial and service implications.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The strategy will assist the health and wellbeing objectives of the council and assist vulnerable members of the community.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 None specifically

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The Telecare Strategy provides a structure within which new services can be provided to help maintain peoples independence in their own homes.

9. CONSULTEES

- 9.1 Not applicable at this stage.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 [Countywide Strategy for Telecare 2007 – 2011](#)
10.2 [Commissioning Intentions for 2007/08 and 2008/09](#)
10.3 [Executive Summary](#)

26.3.08