

## Health and Wellbeing Board

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**Date of Meeting:** 15<sup>th</sup> September 2015

**Report of:** Brenda Smith, Director of Adult Social Care and Independent Living

**Subject/Title:** Assistive Technology Task and Finish Group Recommendations

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### **1 Report Summary**

1.1 The Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee, through a task and finish group, completed a review of Assistive Technology and how its use could be developed through adult social care services to help people remain independent and healthy in their own homes for longer. Amongst the recommendations were two for consideration by the Health and Wellbeing Board and they are the focus of this report. However the broader recommendations will be of interest too. The Task and Finish Report is attached as Appendix One.

### **2 Recommendations**

2.1 That the Board consider the two recommendations of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group.

### **3 Reasons for Recommendations**

3.1 To allow a response to be given to the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### **4 Impact on Health and Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

4.1 The use of Assistive Technology can play a significant part in enabling older people to live healthier and more active lives for longer.

### **5 Background and Options**

5.1 Prior to Council agreeing changes to its decision making and governance arrangements in May 2014, the Adult Social Care Policy Development Group (PDG) set up a sub group to look at Assistive Technology (AT) and how its use could be developed throughout adult social care services to help people remain independent and healthy in their own homes for longer. The sub group was set up following a PDG meeting in February 2014 where a report about

the potential to develop the use of assistive technology in adult social care was received. The Sub Group had the following membership:

- Councillor Jos Saunders (Chairman)
- Councillor Janet Jackson
- Councillor Brendan Murphy

5.2 At the Council's Annual Meeting on 14 May 2014 the Council decided to replace the previous scrutiny committee and policy development group system with a new Overview and Scrutiny Committee system. The responsibilities of the Adult Social Care PDG were taken up by the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee; the Committee decided to continue the work of the PDG's sub group by setting up a task and finish group with a new membership:

- Councillor Jos Saunders (Chairman)
- Councillor Carolyn Andrew
- Councillor Laura Jeuda

5.3 The PDG sub group which subsequently became the Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group (the Group) held several meetings and site visits over the course of the review including:

- A site visit to Liverpool Museum to see the 'Mi Smarthouse' Exhibit to discover more about the types of AT that are currently available and how they work to help people live independently or assist carers with caring duties.
- A visit to Peaks and Plains Housing Trust to discuss the provision of the Council's Telecare service and the additional services provided by P&P to their tenants and other private customers.
- Meeting with officers to discuss financial aspect of Assistive Technology.

5.4 During the review the Group considered three policy areas suggested in the original report to the PDG which are:

- Effectiveness: - how effective is assistive technology in achieving good outcomes for prevention and early intervention of illness to help maintain independence?
- Universal Accessibility: - how accessible should the Council make AT? Should it be reserved for the few with critical and substantial needs or should it be made available to everyone who could benefit from it?
- Charging: - Who should pay and how much; what is financially sustainable for the Council and what are the cost benefits of providing AT?

5.5 The Task and Finish Group's report was presented to the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee in February 2015.

- 5.5 Two recommendations of the Task and Finish Group's Report are directed to the Health and Wellbeing Board:
- That the Health and Wellbeing Board be requested to encourage health service providers and commissioners to promote the benefits of assistive technology to patients and service users in order to increase its use as part of early intervention and prevention initiatives.
  - That the Health and Wellbeing Board be requested to consider how funding for assistive technology projects can be increased through contributions from health and social care commissioners.
- 5.6 The Board is asked to consider and discuss these two issues (in the light of the broader report) so that a response can be provided to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

## **6 Access to Information**

- 6.1 The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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