

Trust Board Briefing Paper

From: Diane Spence, Director of Community Care

To: Trust Board Members

Date: 11th August 2022

Subject:

Purchase of Home lifts for use in service users homes

Action Required:

Review and approve allocation of capital funding of £750k to meet demand for household lifts.

Purpose:

The Northern Health and Social Care Trust (NHSCT) has a duty to provide home lifts to service users in privately owned/rented properties. Provision includes stair lifts, both straight and curved, platform lifts for external access, through floor lifts and overhead tracking hoists.

Home lifts are provided to enable service users to access first floor/upstairs facilities in the home, in circumstances where suitable arrangements cannot be made on ground floor level. The Trust also provides overhead tracking hoists to help facilitate carer's management of complex disability where manual handling risks are identified.

Access to/from and within the home is an essential component of enabling older and disabled people to remain and be cared for in their own home.

Background:

This proposal will assist the Trust in meeting the key strategic objectives highlighted in Health and Wellbeing 2026: Delivering together, by promoting the prevention agenda in supporting everyone to lead long, healthy and active lives. As well as the policy context, the Trust also has a statutory duty under the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons (NI) Act, 1978 to make provision of such equipment within a reasonable timeframe following the identification of an assessed need. The Department of Health target associated with such provision includes a responsibility to install all lifts and overhead tracking hoists within 16 weeks of the identified need as assessed by an Occupational Therapist (OT).

Demand has increased in recent years due to the changing demography and the increasing volumes of older and disabled people in the community who have difficulty managing stairs within their home to access the necessary facilities. This has placed significant demand on existing revenue resources and expenditure in this area, particularly for higher cost installations in excess of £4,000 – £5,000 has increased in recent years. In previous years expenditure for capital installations equated to approximately £200K per annum however the service has experienced additional cost pressures during the last 2 years due to the escalating costs of installations. Consequently, the cost pressure increased to 372k in 2019/20 and £498k in 2020/21 and expenditure for 2021/22 increased to £632k. In addition, the total waiting list demand carried forward to 2022/23, as

at 31 March 2022, was 22 lifts to the estimated value of £208k. The projected amount at the end of July 22 including waiting list is £672k but added to this there will be price increases by the supplier effective from August 2022.

Progress to date:

The need for the project can be evidenced by the impact provision of home lifts can make to service users lives. A previous service user feedback audit highlighted the significant benefits to such provision including improved safety, independence and quality of life. The project ensures that higher cost installations funded from a capital allocation reduces pressure on revenue budgets thereby increasing the overall volumes of lifts to be installed and ultimately reducing unnecessary delays for provision.

Conclusion:

By approving the business case, the Trust can meet its requirement of being equipped to install higher cost home lifts and ceiling track hoists within 16 weeks of an assessed need as per the Departmental target.