

Wheelchair and Seating Service Draft Action Plan

Midlothian Council Response

	Comments
Patient and User Involvement	Agree with the recommendations
Partnerships and Collaborations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In improving service delivery it is essential that the WSS develop links with health, education and social care partners.• Agree with the principle of the WSS developing partnerships with local authorities, health and education to achieve improved alignment of services locally.• The intention of the WSS to establish links and form partnerships with local authorities , health and education to achieve improved service delivery is welcomed .• The major challenge to achieving improved alignment and redesign in service is identifying the resources required. To progress possible opportunities for joint working detailed work focusing on the resource implications across the services is essential .
Service Redesign	Agree with the Recommendations

<p>Building Capacity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of the importance of transport in accessing wheelchair clinics is essential and we welcome the intention to work with transport providers. • The development of local wheelchair and seating clinics is welcomed . • The proposal to train and develop practitioners with a special interest in providing clinical expertise is commendable but it would seem unlikely that there are staff with the capacity to take on an expanded role.
<p>Referral Assessment and Provision</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The acceptance by the WSS of referrals from registered health care professionals is welcomed. • The document proposes that occupational therapists in both health and social care settings will not only make referrals to the WSS of service users with whom they are working with but that direct referrals will be made to local authority staff for wheelchair assessments. Details are required as to how this model would be resourced. Demands on occupational therapists in local authority settings are such that an increase in responsibilities, without an increase in staffing would result in the inability of these staff to carry out existing duties A multi disciplinary and multiagency approach to wheelchair and seating provision is therefore dependent on the availability of additional resources . • The availability of resources will be paramount when exploring the pathways for provision of standard equipment with local health and social care providers . • In developing service level agreements with nursing and care home providers for the provision of wheelchairs for occasional by residents there must be • transparency of the financial implications of these arrangements .

Equipment, Repairs and Maintenance	Agree with the recommendations
IT and Information Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A robust IT system is essential in the provision of the WSS. An interface with health and social work systems is highly desirable but it may be that this has to be developed incrementally due to the magnitude of the task – an option appraisal would determine this.
Quality and Governance	Agree with the Recommendations