

**Dunfermline & West Fife Community Health Partnership
Learning Disability Service**

Physiotherapy Department – Learning Disabilities

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RE: Wheelchair and seating services modernisation - Public Consultation

I write with response to this consultation on behalf of the Learning Disability Service within NHS Fife. A significant number of our client group in Fife have requirement to use wheelchair services, both standard wheelchair provision and rehabilitation special seating services, therefore this review will have significant impact on our service.

In general the modernisation action plan is a very positive document with many good suggestions for change. In particular we are supportive of the plans to have more local clinics and to seek proper transport solutions for these clinics. We do currently have some local clinic provision but this is on an ad-hoc basis, with no transport or accommodation requirements being addressed. We also support the additional training for local staff in assessment and prescription. From our clients point of view the proposed extended hours for repairs and maintenance, locally based clinics and receiving their own copies of assessments/equipment provision, should all improve the quality of their care. We also welcome the proposed service level agreements with nursing and care homes in regard to transit chairs. Too often this can be a major problem with inappropriate transit chairs being purchased or none at all if the home does not see this as essential. Hopefully the proposals will improve this situation.

If all the actions laid out in this document are followed through there should be a significant improvement in wheelchair services for our client group; however we are concerned that this is only possible and sustainable with the correct levels of funding. The current wheelchair service already makes good efforts towards many of these suggestions but this often falls short due to excessive demands on the services and financial pressures. We would be anxious that if the entire modernisation plan is not properly financially supported, certain areas of the plan may not be progressed to the detriment of our client group. We hope this has been considered in the discussions so far.

I am happy to be involved in any further consultations or stakeholder events on behalf of our service and our client group.

Amanda Leech
Superintendent Physiotherapist
Learning Disabilities Service