

Wheelchair services update - August 15

1. Assessment

In June 2015 a working group including the Occupational Therapy Lead, Wheelchair Advanced Practitioner Occupational Therapist and Occupational Therapy representatives across other clinical areas was established. The purpose was to introduce a Tiered Model of wheelchair provision to build capacity and improve the sustainability of the service thus ensuring continuous responsive service to service users. There was a need to re-define the “specialised” role of the Advanced Practitioner Occupational Therapist so that their expertise is targeted at the service users with highly complex needs.

To achieve this aim the following actions were identified:

Action	Plan
1. Assure competency levels	Training needs of staff and establish the ordering privileges linked to training and competency
Current Status	Training completed on basic wheelchair provisions July 2015. Recording of assessment draft developed for piloting.
i) 2. Develop standardised & streamlined process	A pathway on the process and a procedure to be followed to assess and prescribe wheelchair plus how to access the Wheelchair Therapist if required
Current Status	In discussion to develop referral access & interface

	with specialist
ii) 3. Ensure equity of provision	Professional practice guidance on prescribing the wheelchair to meet an individual's needs
Current Status	Draft format developed needs wider consultation with all stakeholders prior to ratification

2. Provision

For the provision of wheelchair several options currently exist which are varied and may be dependent on stock availability and length of time provision is needed. HSSD do not provide wheelchairs and funding should be used for purchasing assessment stock. The funding for wheelchairs is expected to be:-

- Private funding
- SSD funding
- Education funding
- Charity funding

However, within the current model at times wheelchair provision has not been funded with HSSD meeting the shortfall and associated work.

There has also been the perception that the level of choice has been restricted by the Wheelchair Service. On occasions when individuals have sourced the model of wheelchair independently the subsequent repair/maintenance has proved problematic.

Action

Option appraisal needed on the various wheelchair provision models and what the key requirements of wheelchair provision. Proposed options to consider include the following

- “Contract” list of wheelchairs – HSSD provide to the individual include ongoing service & maintenance
- “Contract” list of wheelchairs – HSSD sell to the individual – extra to include service & maintenance
- Preferred list of wheelchair in the type needed including delivery time/servicing on Island given to service user so they can make own informed selection.
- Provide wheelchair prescription only outlining the features, dimensions.

Current Status

Need to explore with service users, finance, suppliers to complete the options appraisal.

3. Repair & maintenance

The model for repair and maintenance has to be informed by the option agreed for wheelchair provision.

The current pathway is very protracted for those who need funding from SSD – See below

There also needs to be clarity on what is a repair as sometimes modifications are referred to as repairs which only serves to cause further confusion

Action

Need to collect data on frequency and type of repairs needed over last year to inform the level and type of repairs. Inform demand for the repair service

Pathway for repair needs to be agreed with all stakeholders.

Current status

Data gathering to begin when admin assistant in post

Progress will be dependent on provision model.

Fiona Hegarty, August 2015

Repair Pathway (SSD Funding)

