

Options for Transport

The Community Equipment Store currently operates two vehicles and provides a delivery and collection service. It delivers, but does not fit equipment items ready for use. This function is carried out by the requisitioner.

Vehicle A is a long wheelbase Renault Master van, purchased new in March 2005 by Herefordshire PCT and subsequently transferred to Herefordshire Council (ICES) ownership. This vehicle is driven by a full-time driver, employed by the PCT, but based at Unit 3.

The vehicle carried out routine deliveries and collections, following a standard, weekly pattern.

Vehicle B is a Ford Transit van, which has been leased since August, 2004, at a cost of £5,200 per annum. The lease term ends in August, 2007.

The vehicle is used for urgent deliveries and collections (e.g. hospital discharge), supplementing Vehicle A where demand creates pressures which could affect performance; deliveries and collections of large, heavy or awkward items and all deliveries or collections requiring two people for health and safety reasons. This vehicle is driven by Community Equipment Store staff as a part of their duties.

Both vans are divided into two compartments, so that cross contamination between clean and dirty items is minimised.

- Option 1 – do nothing
 - Costs
 - No additional funding required
 - Advantages
 - None
 - Disadvantages
 - Delays continue to be built into system.
 - Customer has to wait for clinician to revisit before using equipment.
 - Increasing demand will impact on already stretched services.
- Option 2 – 2 additional vans and drivers
 - Costs
 - £40,000 in year 1 to purchase vans
 - Ongoing additional revenue costs – staffing £30k plus on-costs; transport £7,000
 - Advantages
 - Increased service efficiency
 - Continued excellent performance with increase in demand
 - Drivers will be multi-skilled to provide cover elsewhere within the service as required

- Splitting the area into 3 improves delivery schedules and avoids some places having to wait a week between deliveries
 - Greater capacity for collections, therefore greater savings to service from re-use of equipment
 - Greater flexibility – especially at holiday periods and times of high demand
 - Potential to extend delivery hours
 - Purchase and running costs of a van over a life of 10 years will be little more than half the cost of leasing one over the same period.
- Disadvantages
 - Cost to revenue budget for additional staff and running costs
 - Current lack of additional secure overnight storage for vans

Recommendation

Option 2 is recommended.