

## **WIRRAL HANDYPERSONS SERVICE**

### **RATIONALE FOR SAVINGS**

This option will remove the service provided by Wirral's Handyperson Service to the general public. This service is not statutory but is designed to assist the elderly, disabled and vulnerable people to live independently at home and to enable them to remain safe and secure within their community.

The service will continue to facilitate the fast track hospital discharge element; this service provides a vital role in delivering fast track adaptations to assist the health authority and social care requirements to meet statutory responsibilities regarding delayed hospital discharge.

This option would save £209,400.

### **IMPACT**

Households containing low income, disabled, elderly and vulnerable people could be impacted upon if the Handyperson service is withdrawn.

The work of the Handyperson Service is preventative in nature and enables people to continue living independent lives in their own homes for longer, resulting in fewer clients needing to access health and social care services at an earlier stage.

The service provided corresponds with the government's commitment to greater personalisation, promoting greater choice and control for users of health and social care services.

In the event that other organisations are unable to provide an alternative service, this could impact on individuals and corporate priorities of:

- Protecting our vulnerable adults and children
- Tackling poverty and inequalities in health.

### **MITIGATION**

A reduced number of staff will still facilitate the fast track hospital discharge service, which will continue to be funded through the Communities and Local Government grant of £126,000 until 2015. During the next 2 years options will be explored to identify alternative funding for this element of the service should the CLG funding cease.

In relation to the element of the service currently available to the general public, which is to cease, the Council will explore other ways in which this service might be available e.g. through the establishment of a social enterprise or through links to the Wirral Traders Scheme.