Digital Assistive Technology Loan Agreement Policy

March 2019 Draft

This Policy has been devised to enable a consistent approach to the provision of the equipment and its maintenance in line with other community equipment provided by the Directorate. The legal authority for this is set out in the Care Act 2014 chapter 8 as below.

8.14 Community equipment (aids and minor adaptations). Aids must be

provided free of charge whether provided to meet or prevent/delay needs. A minor adaptation is one costing £1,000 or less.

The period of free loan of the equipment will be determined either by the length of the assessment period as specified by the assessor to establish the type and level of support required.

or

Following an assessment of need should Digital Assistive Technology be required then this will be on a long term loan agreement for as long as the need remains. Each client will have their eligibility for the equipment reviewed annually as part of their Care and Support Plan review.

Should the client move to another address in the community within the boundary of Sunderland then the equipment will able to go with them.

Should the client enter a 24 hour care environment on a long term basis then the equipment is to be returned to the Council unless an assessment or review determines a need for it to continue to be provided.

Maintenance of the devices.

Responsibility for the correct operational functioning of the devices (other than the internet connection) lies with Sunderland City Council. Maintenance of the devices will be completed by arrangement with Sunderland City Council once the client has notified the Council of an issue.

The provision of a broadband connection.

This equipment requires a connection to the internet in order to be operational.

A decision has been made by the Directorate to provide this connection and meet the associated costs for the duration of an assessment, the duration of which will be determined by the assessor.

Once the assessment period is completed and a determination has been made to continue to provide the equipment to the client, responsibility for the on-going cost of the internet connection will be with the client.

Deployment.

Deployment of the equipment is to be recorded by the installer and a register is to be maintained by the Council for purposes of audit and stock returns.