

Good Practice Guide



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Providing community equipment to prisons



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Introduction

The objective of this Protocol is to promote a consistent and reliable approach to the assessment, provision and uplift, of community equipment to people in custody in prisons across Scotland.

Numerous national and international statutes, including the UN declaration of human rights, [Principle 9](#) and the World Health Organisation, affirm the right of those in custody in prison to healthcare equivalent to that available to those not in custody in prison.

This guide provides an example of how the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) and Health and Social Care Partnerships (HSCPs) could work in partnership to assess need, and provide appropriate equipment to meet those needs. This guide is based on the principles of the [Protocol for the Provision of Equipment to Care Homes](#) and work carried out by the Forth Valley Health & Social Care Partnerships (Falkirk and Clackmannanshire & Stirling) to develop a joint protocol.

Scale of the Issue

The [Prison Reform Trust Winter 2021 Factfile](#) highlights that disability and mobility needs within the prison population are both severe and commonplace. It estimates that 36% of prisoners have a physical or mental disability, compared to 19% of the general population.

With prison sentences getting longer, people are now growing older behind bars. People aged 60 and over are the fastest growing age group in the prison estate. There are now nearly triple the number there were 16 years ago.

Latest available data (June 2013) for Scotland indicates a total of 7,883 people in prisons across Scotland, 10% (784) of whom are aged over 50 and 3% aged over 60. [2 Imprisoned People: Individual level analysis - Scottish prison population: statistics 2019 to 2020 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

What is Community Equipment

The [Guidance on Equipment and Adaptations](#) describes community equipment as 'Any item or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified or customized that is used to increase the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities. Community equipment can include, but is not limited to:

- Equipment for those who are more dependent, such as Moving & handling equipment, pressure relieving mattresses and hospital beds.
- 'Daily living' equipment, for example shower chairs and stools, bathlifts, raised toilet seats, commodes, rails, transfers aids, and seating.
- Mobility equipment such as walkers, walking frames and sticks.
- Telecare products including flood detectors, falls monitors, smoke detectors and motion sensors. These are often linked to a call centre and trigger a response when activated.
- Sensory equipment such as flashing doorbells and text phones
- Communication equipment, including Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) devices to assist people who have difficulty with speech.

It does not include any medical devices or anything that is invasive to the body (e.g. PEG feeding equipment)."

Assessment

With appropriate training and support, the assessment of need, and provision of equipment can be carried out by a wide range of professionals, including SPS staff members. Partnerships should consider local need for the development of training and support to prisons in their locality.

A range of online tools are also available to support prison staff work with prisoners to identify any need for equipment. See good practice example below.

Good Practice Example: Training prison staff to assess for basic equipment

In December 2017 managers with responsibility for the community equipment service within Perth & Kinross Health & Social Care Partnership met with the Head of Nursing for NHS Tayside Prisoner Healthcare. It was agreed that a number of nursing staff based in Perth prison would be given access to the *Elms* online ordering system to allow them to directly access core stocks of daily living aids, pressure care, moving and handling equipment and basic walking aids.

Training on assessing and use of the equipment was provided to the prison Nursing team who, following training were able to register on the *Elms* system. Opening up access to basic walking aids reduced the need for prisoners to attend hospital for physio appointments.

In 2019, Equipu Community Equipment service trained prison based health care staff in Barlinnie prison to directly order equipment on the web-based ordering system. As above, this has allowed a more direct route to the provision of equipment and better knowledge of potential needs and solutions within the health care staff.

Health and Social Care Integration

The [Public Bodies \(Joint Working\) \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#) established the legal framework for the integration of health and social care in Scotland. The Act requires each Health Board and Local Authority to delegate some of their statutory functions, and associated budgets, to their Integration Authority (Health & Social Care Partnership). The HSCP is then responsible for the planning and delivery of the related services.

Local Authorities, along with other relevant partners, need to consider how the delegation of functions can best be implemented for the benefit of all individuals assessed as requiring support. Where equipment and adaptations are provided, these services, along with the resources which fund this support must be included in the integration arrangements. Read the [Aids, Adaptations and Equipment Advice Note](#) for more information.

Each HSCP must prepare a [Strategic Commissioning Plan](#) which sets out how they will plan and deliver services, including community equipment, for their area over the

medium term. Stakeholders must be fully engaged in the preparation, publication and review of the strategic commissioning plan, in order to establish a meaningful co-productive approach.

Good practice would suggest that partnerships with prisons within their locality should work with the SPS to assess the needs of their prison population, and agree appropriate arrangements for the provision, maintenance and review of community equipment provided to meet assessed needs.

Further guidance on the Integration of Health and Social Care is available at <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/archive/Adult-Health-SocialCare-Integration/Implementation/ImplementationGuidance>.

Roles and Responsibilities

Please note, where local, joint working arrangements fall within the spirit of this protocol we would not expect partnerships to change these arrangements, simply to fall in line with this guide.

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP (HSCP)	NHS PRISON HEALTHCARE STAFF	SCOTTISH PRISON SERVICE (SPS)	COMMUNITY EQUIPMENT STORE (CES)
Work in partnership to agree a range of core stock suitable for use within the prison environment, taking into account the potential need for increased security, health and safety standards and other environmental factors.			
Work in partnership to agree procurement and funding arrangements for all community equipment provided to prisoners.			
Work in partnership to agree arrangements for the tracking, maintenance, decontamination and recycling of community equipment across the prison estate.			
Work in partnership to provide training to prison staff (e.g. prison nurses) on the assessment of basic needs, and provision of simple equipment to prisoners			
Work in partnership to agree a list of relevant leads/contacts to support effective communication between agencies.			
Undertake an assessment of prisoners with higher level/complex needs, and ensure any equipment proposed is “fit for purpose” - meeting the prisoner’s needs while considering the environment.	Carry out assessment of people in prison with simple/low level/standard needs. Refer more complex people to HSCP for assessment of needs.	Identify prisoners who may have a need for community equipment. Carry out assessment of prisoners with simple/low level/basic needs Refer more complex cases to HSCP for assessment of needs.	
Following assessment will recommend appropriate equipment to meet the assessed need.	Following assessment, order the required equipment directly from store service.	Confirm the equipment meets SPS safety/security standards and assess any implications of providing recommended equipment to individual (see above).	
Provide equipment to meet short-term, temporary (3 months or less) needs, to aid recovery and		Provide equipment to meet the long-term needs of prisoners .	Process equipment orders and liaise with the relevant named prison contact to agree a time and

rehabilitation. Recommend to SPS, equipment required to meet complex long- term needs	named contact for delivery of the equipment.
	Complete form P1 to confirm equipment will meet assessed needs (HSCP assessor) and that SPS security and safety standards have been considered and agreed (SPS named contact).
	Co-ordinate the delivery, installation and demonstration (if necessary) of the equipment to the prisoner, and any other relevant person who may use the equipment (e.g. guard, prison buddy).
Copy of Form P1 will be saved into relevant IA records.	Form P1 will be placed on prisoners file.
	Complete assessment once equipment is in situ to ensure needs are appropriately met.
	Agree procedure/timescale for regular review and maintenance of equipment.
	Liaise with the relevant named prison contact to confirm a mutually agreed uplift time and place for equipment, when no longer required.

See also appendix A for process flowchart.

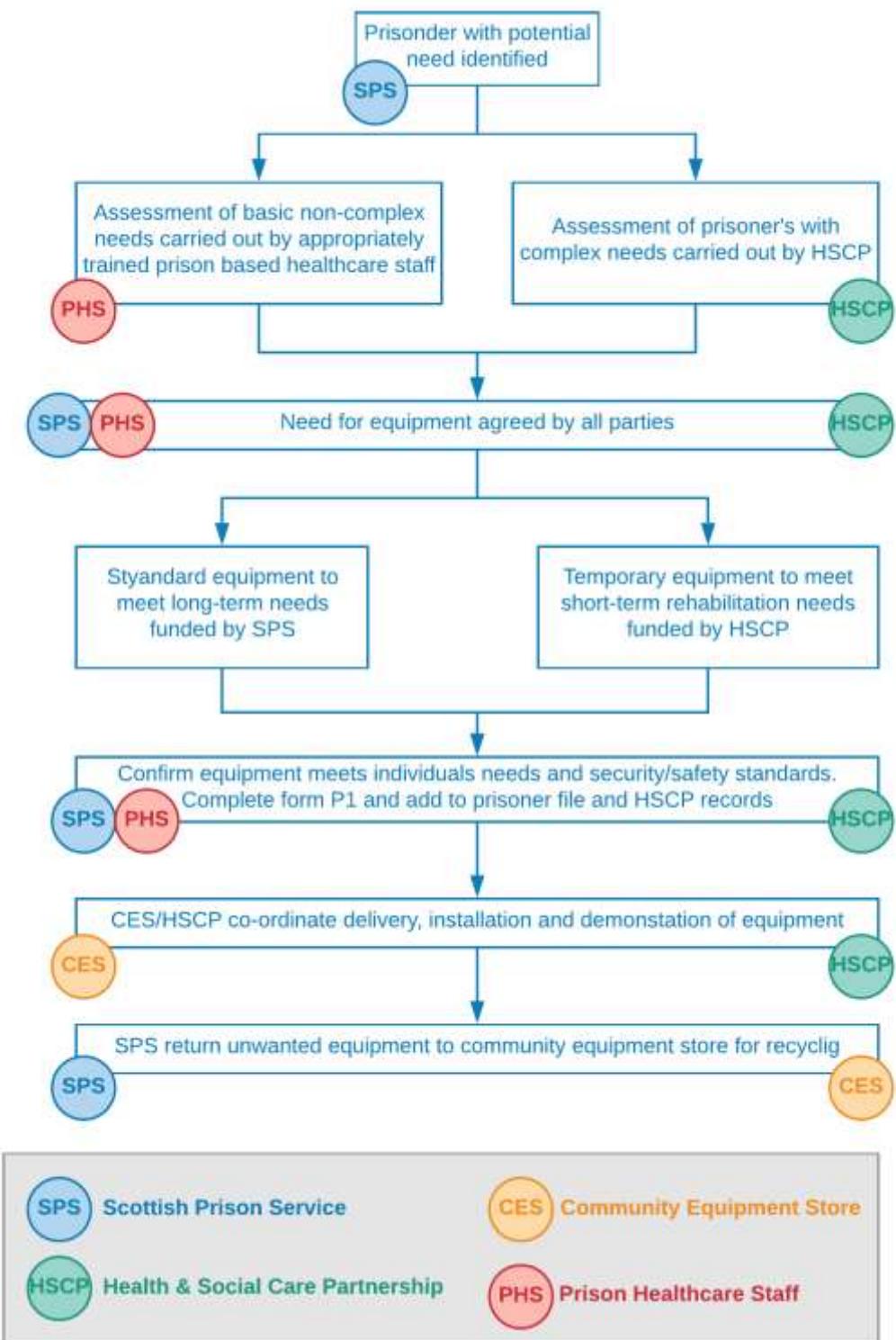
Documentation

Form P1 (see Appendix B) will be signed by the assessing HSCP professional to confirm that equipment is fit for purpose and then counter-signed by an SPS representative to confirm that any safety/security implications of the provision of the recommended equipment have been considered and that SPS standards are met.

SPS will retain Form P1 within in the prisoner's file on the Prison Hall and a copy will be also placed within the prisoner's NHS record by the relevant health professional.

If there is a disagreement about the equipment recommended by the HSCP assessor this will be documented as above and escalated to senior management within the IA and SPS.

Appendix A: Process for the Referral, Assessment, Provision and Recycling of Community Equipment to prisoners



Appendix B: Form P1, Equipment agreement for IA and SPS re suitability, safety and security of equipment.

Prisoner Name:		
Spin:	CHI:	
<p>The above prisoner has been assessed by a IA (HSCP) staff member as requiring the following item/s of equipment to meet their health & social care needs. The equipment is suitable for their functional ability and for the structural environment. The equipment has also been agreed by an SPS staff member as appropriate for the individual in terms of security and the prison environment.</p>		
Purpose of equipment <i>e.g. showering</i>	Type of product <i>e.g. shower chair</i>	Name of product
Security and safety checked (tick box)		<input type="checkbox"/>
Health & Social Care Partnership		Scottish Prison Service
Name (Print)	Name (Print)	
Signature	Signature	
Date:	Date:	