

## SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**REPORT TO:** Housing Portfolio Holder Meeting 17 March 2010  
**AUTHOR/S:** Chief Executive / Corporate Manager, Community & Customer Services

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### MOBILE & COMMUNITY WARDEN SCHEMES

#### Purpose

1. To inform and update the Housing Portfolio Holder with regard to the current status of, and the Council's support to, Mobile and Community Warden Schemes.
2. This is not a key decision and a request for an information report was first published in the 17 February 2010 Forward Plan.

#### Background

3. Mobile and Community Warden Schemes (sometimes called Community Care Schemes) exist in South Cambridgeshire to support older people to live independently in their homes and in the community they know, and which knows them.
4. Mobile and Community Warden Schemes are complementary to statutory care services and do not duplicate or replace the medical or social care services that individuals may also require. Such schemes promote the social inclusion of older people living in rural communities by helping to combat loneliness and social isolation. They provide significant benefits to clients at relatively low cost and are seen by clients and their families as a vital community-based service.
5. Wardens themselves are paid, trained staff that can identify the many and varied needs of their clients and support them with chores, shopping, and basic care needs. Some of the schemes are run by community members and receive 'umbrella' support from Care Network Cambridgeshire. Others are run directly by Age Concern Cambridgeshire, an organisation that directly employs the wardens. Further information can be found in the **attached** information leaflet for Councillors.
6. South Cambridgeshire District Council has been providing grant funding to Mobile and Community Warden Schemes for many years and will do so again in 2010/11. Table 1 below shows where the schemes are, whether they operate with support from Care Network or are run by Age Concern, client numbers and charges, funding levels from SCDC since 2008/09. It also shows what percentage in 2010/11 this Council's contribution is of the total cost of running each scheme.
7. In recent years, SCDC has received no grant application from Melbourn Mobile Warden Scheme. This scheme is currently undergoing a governance review and it is hoped that a refreshed scheme will be in place by 1 April 2010. It is also hoped that the scheme might be funded from the remaining capacity within the Mobile and Community Warden Scheme budget (under-spend from 2009/10) and that, therefore, the scheme will receive SCDC support.

8. Three further schemes did not apply for funding for the 2010/11 financial year, namely Comberton (which closed in October 2009 due to low client numbers and refunded the remainder of their 2009/10 SCDC grant), Great Shelford and Stapleford (both of which have sufficient funds to operate without seeking an SCDC grant for 2010/11).

Table 1

Scheme	Care Network or Age Concern	No of Users 2009/10	Cost per User 2009/10	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2010/11 grant as approx % of total running costs
Cottenham	CN	22	£3.20	£1,100.00	£1,200.00	£1,500.00	27.0%
Harston	CN	5	£3.00	£1,300.00	£1,170.00	£1,021.00	25.5%
Haslingfield	CN	20	£6.00	£250.00	£250.00	£250.00	2.8%
Melbourn	CN						
Meldreth	CN	9	£5.00	£800.00	£800.00	£1,000.00	12.5%
Milton	CN	25	£4.00	£900.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	6.3%
Mordens & Litlington	CN	21	£3.00	£800.00	£900.00	£2,000.00	17.0%
Comberton	CN			£400.00	£170.00		
Great Shelford	CN			£1,442.00	£1,000.00		
Stapleford	CN			£750.00	£200.00		
Teversham	AC	20	£3.50	£1,950.00	£2,086.00	£2,086.00	19.3%
Linton	AC	25	£3.50	£2,700.00	£2,739.00	£2,739.00	19.3%
Small Villages: Shudy Camps, Castle Camps, Horseheath, Balsham, West Wickham, Western Colville, West Wrattling	AC	10	£3.50	£3,350.00	£3,347.00	£3,347.00	19.3%
Histon & Impington	AC	16	£3.50	£1,850.00	£1,850.00	£1,850.00	19.3%

### Considerations

9. Grant funding is allocated to each scheme based on a number of criteria, including the number of clients, the clients fees charged, the account balance at year-end, alternative and additional sources of funding sought.
10. Client numbers within each scheme fluctuate on a month-by-month basis, largely due to the nature of the work and the age of the clients served.
11. A meeting is to take place in early 2010/11 between SCDC officers, Care Network and Age Concern to discuss how each scheme operates and the support needs each has.

### Effect on Strategic Aims

12. **Commitment to being a listening council, providing first class services accessible to all.**  
 Providing grants to Mobile and Community Warden Schemes ensures the continuation of the provision of a vital community service, which enables older people to live independently and continue to access local services.
- Commitment to ensuring that South Cambridgeshire continues to be a safe and healthy place for all.**

<p>Recipients of warden services report feeling safer in their homes because they are visited and/or telephoned regularly. Families of these older people also report feeling reassured that their relatives are safe and well.</p>
<p><b>Commitment to making South Cambridgeshire a place in which residents can feel proud to live.</b></p> <p>Enabling older people to continue to live in their own homes results in a sense of independence and self worth. It also provides a means of social interaction, without which older people might become isolated and excluded.</p>
<p><b>Commitment to assisting provision for local jobs for all.</b></p> <p>In the main, wardens are members of the village in which they work and, consequently, know the local community well. While numbers are relatively low, the employment of local people in their own communities supports this Council commitment.</p>
<p><b>Commitment to providing a voice for rural life.</b></p> <p>The Council has listened to local communities in reviewing funding to Mobile and Community Warden Schemes.</p>

### **Conclusions**

13. The schemes being grant funded by SCDC for 2010/11 have been notified of this decision and many have already expressed their gratitude for the grant and for the ongoing support of the Council.
14. While there is work to be done to ensure the sustainability and viability of the schemes in the future, it is clear that there is considerable value to the Council, both in terms of service provision and reputation, in funding such value for money schemes.

### **Recommendation**

15. To note the report as presented, reflect on the content and request further information if necessary.

**Background Papers:** the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- Age Concern – ‘Older People and Village Services’ research summary
- Appendix A – Mobile and Community Warden Scheme Information Leaflet created for Councillors by SCDC officers in October 2009

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