

# **Self Directed Support with Personal Budgets**

## **Confused by the terminology? Try our jargon buster ...**

The terminology around self directed support has evolved through the two years of our Self Directed Support Programme. These changes reflect our learning in Cumbria and national changes. Here is a round up of terms we should be using.

### **Indicative amount**

An indication of the level of funding that could be made available by Adult Social Care to meet a service user's assessed needs. The service user will be informed of their indicative amount before they start work on their support plan.

The indicative amount is a guide, not a right to an allocation of money. A service user can ask for levels of funding greater than the indicative amount if their support plan shows that their needs cannot be met within this amount. Likewise, if a service user agrees that their needs can be met for less than the indicative amount, the personal budget will be set at this lower amount.

### **Personal budget**

The actual amount of money Adult Social Care will make available to meet a service user's social care needs as identified in an assessment. Adult Social Care will undertake and assessment of the service user's financial circumstances to work out if they should contribute towards their personal budget.

The personal budget is confirmed once a support plan has been approved by Adult Social Care. The personal budget can be used to arrange services through a direct payment, through services arranged by Adult Social Care staff or a combination of the two. The personal budget will be used for community based services and not for care in residential and nursing homes.

### **Service user contribution to their personal budget**

A financial assessment will be carried out at the earliest opportunity following the assessment of need. The assessment will be completed in accordance with the Government Guidance on Fairer Charging Policies and will work out the contribution, if any, that the service user will be required to make towards their personal budget.

Service users who choose to use their personal budget as a direct payment will have their payments reduced by the amount of their assessed contribution. Service users who ask Adult Social Care to arrange services will receive a bill for their contribution.

## **Self directed support**

Enables service users to have greater choice and control over the social care and support services they receive to meet their assessed needs. Cumbria County Council has made self directed support available to service users for many years through use of direct payments. From 16 November, this will be extended by offering service users personal budgets for their social care and support. Self directed support through the use of personal budgets is being implemented in Cumbria by a Self Directed Support Programme Board.

## **Direct payment**

Money provided by Adult Social Care to enable a service user to arrange and be in control of the services they choose to meet their assessed needs. Direct payments will continue to be available as a self directed support option for carers, occupational therapy equipment and service users of community mental health teams.

## **Support plan**

A plan developed by service users (with help if needed) to show how they can use funding from Adult Social Care and other resources to meet their assessed needs. The service user will be made aware of their indicative amount and have a copy of the statement of their needs before they start work on their support plan.

## **Assessment of need**

Completed by an assessor (such as a social worker) in partnership with the service user to identify a service user's social care and support needs and their eligibility for support from Adult Social Care through use of Fair Access to Care Services eligibility criteria. The assessment will produce a statement of assessed needs and an indicative amount.

## **Individual Budget**

We will avoid using this term with service users. Individual budgets are defined as including council funding (e.g. a personal budget) alongside other sources of funding. We do not have arrangements to deal with multiple funding streams. Also the Government, in their National Indicator (NII30) are judging councils by their use of personal budgets not individual budgets. For these reasons, we will focus on personal budgets and avoid use of the term individual budget.

**(Taken from in Control Total Newsletter – September 2009)**