

**NHS Portsmouth –
Personal Health Budgets**

1 Introduction

The Personal Health Budget programme has been established by the Department Of Health to provide better outcomes and satisfaction for patients, by providing increased levels of choice and control of NHS Care, this is supported by the NHS White Paper “Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS”.

Personal Health Budgets (PHB) enables an individual to choose the care and services which best suit their needs in collaboration with their healthcare professional. This may include a choice of alternative treatment options, providers and a greater choice of when and where their services are delivered personalised around their life.

Personal Health Budgets are at a very early stage of development and are currently being piloted in some areas across the country. The pilot programme is aiming to establish how best to implement personal health budgets and explore who will benefit the most through improved outcomes from care. Personal Health Budgets are seen by the Department of Health as being central to the development of personalised healthcare through delivering a more person-centred, responsive NHS

NHS Portsmouth was awarded informal pilot status in 2009. This has allowed access to Strategic Health Authority resources to support the planning phases looking at the practicalities of how a personal health budget would work.

2 Background

The ethos behind the changes of Personal Health Budgets is to provide service users the opportunity to engage in the choices around their treatment in collaboration with their health care professional for non urgent care. The outcome of this ethos is expected to lead to better health, improved morale and motivation and enhancing social inclusion.

To access a personal health budget the service user would undergo an assessment of needs, following which they would be told how much money is available to purchase services and care. In partnership the healthcare professional and service user would create a plan for the budget to be used to meet the health and well being outcomes identified as part of the assessment. Once a plan is agreed the money can be deployed as a notional budget held by a health professional; held by another third party on behalf of the patient; taken as a direct payment held by the patient.

On the 4th October 2011, an announcement by Andrew Lansley was made that subject to the evaluation, by April 2014, everyone who is eligible for NHS continuing Healthcare will have the right to ask for a Personal Health Budget including a direct payment.

3 Local Progress and Next Steps

NHS Portsmouth established a project group to establish a draft business process and consider a range of operational questions to propose solutions and identify potential challenges for the future implementation which has successfully been completed.

Work on Personal Health Budgets will continue to focus primarily on those who are eligible for NHS continuing healthcare.

Locally NHS Portsmouth will continue to monitor the development of Personal Health Budgets nationally and continue to work with partners across health and social care to develop a process for personal health budgets.

The Department of Health have made a requirement that every person eligible for NHS continuing Healthcare will have the right to request a personal health budget including a direct payment by April 2014 which is a realistic timescale for implementation.

Further generic information can be found at
<http://www.personalhealthbudgets.dh.gov.uk/>

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