Request for proposals: Personal Health Budgets for People with Learning Disabilities

28 March 2013

Project

In the pilot programme personal health budgets have been offered to a small number of people with learning disabilities, with encouraging results.

People with learning disabilities eligible for NHS Continuing Healthcare will have a right to ask for a personal health budget from April 2014. This is likely to include children and adults with complex health needs or challenging behaviour. Other people such as people with jointly funded packages could also benefit. This provides an opportunity for people to maintain choice and control regardless of which organisation is responsible for commissioning their support.

Meanwhile the DH response to Winterbourne View has highlighted the need for radical change in the way support and services are commissioned for people with challenging behaviour.

Context

On behalf of the Department of Health, we are looking to demonstrate how the NHS, councils and providers of services can make use of personal health budgets to develop individual support arrangements that enable people with learning disabilities with health needs to remain living with their families or close to home.

- Demonstrate the key features of an effective local approach and disseminate the learning.
- Support personal health budget sites to put in place the key elements locally and encourage take-up.

There is particular interest in the following groups:

- Children and adults with learning disabilities who are eligible for NHS Continuing Healthcare or who have joint packages funded by the NHS and councils.
- People with complex health needs or challenging behaviour, including people who are at risk of being placed out of area.
- People who have joint health and social care personal budgets, or whose funding changes from social care to health (or vice-versa).

Outputs

The outputs should be grounded in practical examples. The guide should be short and focused on highlighting key features which are important to have in place locally.
We are interested in proposals that include practical tools such as self assessment models that could be used locally to stimulate change.

The proposed process to achieve the above outputs will include:

- Local workshops in 3-4 sites to identify good practice examples and develop local plans
- Phone interviews with other key people to identify good practice examples
- Working group meetings to develop agreement on key features
- Develop good practice guide
- National event to disseminate findings.

Proposed content of guide

- Key features of an effective approach: description of what needs to be in place locally to enable people with learning disabilities and families to be supported well e.g.
  - Co-production and peer support
  - Building good links between learning disability teams, NHS Continuing Healthcare teams and providers
  - Seamless approach to transitions between health and social care and children and adult services
  - Choice, flexibility, and risk enablement
  - Deployment options to include examples of individual service funds, third party organisations and direct payments.
  - Social capital and alternatives to paid support
  - Developing providers
  - Information, advice and brokerage
  - DP support
  - Transitions and joined up working
  - Specialist advice
  - Crisis support

- Three to four local organisation case studies illustrating the key features and the outputs of the local workshops.

- Excerpts from people stories (these will be provided separately and do not form part of this tender).

- The guide should summarise and build on previous work including the Mansell reports, Altogether NOW, development of individual service funds and general learning on person-centred approaches.

Anticipated project inputs

- 15 days made up of 5 days for local workshops, preparation and research, 4 days for working group meetings, 5 days for production of guide and examples, 1 day for national event.
Daily rate to include travel expenses and accommodation, assuming working group will meet four times in London, plus one national event and three local workshops anywhere in England.

Excluded - venue costs for events, production costs for guide, costs for peer network to be included in working group and national event.

Timings

The project will run from April to September 2013.

Roles

The work will be developed in consultation with a working group which will have representation from personal health budget sites, the national peer network, and other key people. This group will include people from the national peer network practitioners and lead managers who are doing active work to offer personal health budgets to people with learning disabilities, and a small number of other people with relevant expertise.

The working group will be administered by the personal health budgets delivery team from the Department of Health and will regularly feedback to the TLAP coordinating and leadership group.

Bids

- Bids for this project should be received no later than 17 April 2013.
- Bids should be no longer than 4 pages (not including any appendices)
- Bids should include:
  - Evidence demonstrating appropriate skills and competence to deliver this project on time and with quality outputs
  - Approach (how you would go about the project)
  - Fee and estimated expenses
  - Two references (as appendices).

Please send replies to Chelsea.beckford@scie.org.uk If you have any queries, please contact martinroutledge2009@hotmail.com