

Social Care Programme



Self-directed support academy

For people who use services and family carers

Are you interested in being part of changing the way that the social care system works?

What is self-directed support?



Self-directed support is about radically changing the social care system so that people who use it get much more control over what they get. It means people really being in charge of designing the support they get. One good way to make sure this happens is for people to have real influence over the money there is for their support.

The roots of self-directed support lie in movements of people who have used services, who have campaigned for more control and better choices (for example the right to Direct Payments). We are now at a stage where it seems possible that the social care system as a whole could change in this way so that it could be better for everyone – including people who would want help with planning or organising their support.

One example of this is the support from different government departments for the Individual Budget Pilot Programme (see www.individualbudgets.csip.org.uk). Another is the fact that more than half of all Local Authorities in England have signed up as members of In Control (see www.in-control.org.uk).

Things are moving fast. We need help to steer and communicate these changes from people whose expertise is their experience of the current social care system.

Over the past year, we have held three national academies, bringing together people who use services and family carers from around the country who have some personal experience of self-directed support. This has included people who are part of the independent living movement, people who use or have survived mental health services, people who use older people's services, learning disability services and families of all these groups.

We now want to focus on building strength in each of the regions, and are planning academies around the country.



This academy is for you if:



You live in the **London region**.....



AND.....

You have personal experience of self-directed support. This might be through having a Direct Payment, or having a personal/individual budget through In Control's work with Local Authorities, or through the Government's Individual Budget Pilot Programme. You might also have led your own support planning or that of a family member.



AND.....

You are interested in leading work to make sure that people who use services and their families know about self-directed support and can work in partnership with Local Authorities to make it happen.



AND.....

You are part of, or connected to a group or organisation that can:

- ✓ Work with your Care Services Improvement Partnership Regional Development Centre to build and support a group of people who use services and family carers in your region
- ✓ Tell people about self-directed support (training, speaking, information and advice)
- ✓ Work with the Local Authorities in your area to help make self-directed support happen

What could the academy mean for you?



The academy will give you the chance to become an 'expert' in self-directed support through:

- ✓ Understanding the history of self-directed support, including how it links to public policy and the Independent Living Movement
- ✓ Understanding the 'tools and technologies' that are being developed to implement this radical system change

After coming to the academy, you will be equipped to:

- ✓ Offer information, training and support on self-directed support
- ✓ You will be able to charge for this work at a set fee
- ✓ You will be in a strong position to influence the development of self-directed support locally and nationally and influence how ideas about it are communicated

What will be expected from you?

You will be expected to be willing and available to be involved in work after the academy with the Care Services Improvement Partnership, Local Authorities, user-led organisations, and others to develop self-directed support.

Practicalities

Who is running and paying for it?

This programme is being funded by the Care Services Improvement Partnership. It is being organised by Tricia Nicoll from the Care Services improvement Partnership's 'Having a voice' programme.

We will pay for:

- ✓ Accommodation costs
- ✓ Travel
- ✓ PA costs and expenses

We are sorry that we can't pay for your time for you to come. However, we will support you in being able to charge for your time in work you will do as a result of coming to this event.

When and where?

It will be held on **9th and 10th July 2008**

It will be at:

**Novotel Hotel London West
One Shortlands
London
W6 8DR
020 8741 1555**

<http://www.novotellondonwest.co.uk/location/wherearewe.html>

If you have any questions about what this event is all about or whether it is right for you, please do ring Tricia on 07811 340951

If you need any more information or help filling in this form, please call Elaine on 07842 439353

Self-directed support academy

To book your place, please return the pink parts of this form (below) no later than **23rd June 2008**



**By email to:
Elaine Turner at**

turnerbusiness@btinternet.com



Or telephone

07842 439353



Or by post to:

**Elaine Turner
25 Kilda Road
Highworth
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN6 7HS**



Name:



Organisation:



Address:



Telephone number:



Email address:



Do you need a BSL interpreter or other communication support?

Yes No

If yes, what kind of support do you need?



Will you be bringing a personal assistant with you?

Yes No

If yes, what is their name?



Please tell us about the type of bedroom that would work best for you:

- I am a wheelchair-user and I need a fully accessible room with a roll-in shower
- I am a wheelchair-user and I need an accessible room but not a roll-in shower
- I do not need an accessible room
- I need a twin room with my PA
- I need my PA to have a separate room (please say if this should be adjoining yours)

Please tick as many as apply and also use this space to tell us more about any equipment/support you may need.



Do you need any special food or drinks?

- Yes No

If yes, please tell us what it is:



Is there anything else we can do to make sure the event is fully accessible to you?

Travel Expenses

We will pay for your travel costs and other expenses after the event. It would be really helpful to know roughly how much this will be. If it would be helpful for us to book your transport, please let us know and we can do this for you.



Travel costs:



PA support costs:



Child care/other support costs: