

Personal health budgets



update



March 2010

In 2009, over half the primary care trusts in England applied to become personal health budgets pilot sites. Now 73 PCTs, in 66 sites, have provisional pilot status. Twenty of these have been selected for an in-depth study, as part of a wider evaluation exploring the potential of personal health budgets to benefit different groups of people and how PCTs can make them work. The pilot programme will run until 2012.

Evaluation update



The personal health budgets evaluation (PHBE) team, led by the personal social services research unit at the University of Kent, has made good progress over the past couple of months.

It already has approval from the National Ethics Research Service, and is seeking Research and Development approval for each pilot site. Seven pilot sites now have the necessary consent in place. The evaluation period begins in April.

A website has also been developed to provide pilot sites with the necessary information and guidance for the evaluation, www.phbe.org.uk.

Facts and figures

An up-to-date list of the provisional pilot sites can be found on the personal health budgets pages of the [Department of Health website](#).

More information about the twenty in-depth evaluated sites will soon be featured on the [personal health budgets learning network](#) – look out for the new interactive map in the 'About the pilots' section.

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Direct payments for health care

Primary care trusts are already able to offer personal health budgets that do not involve giving money directly to individuals. The Health Act – which received Royal Assent on 12 November 2009 – will extend these options by allowing approved primary care trust sites to pilot direct payments.

The Department of Health recently undertook a public consultation on our proposals for regulations and guidance for direct payments.

The consultation closed on 8 January 2010, and we were very pleased by the number of responses and the high level of support for our proposals. We will be publishing our response shortly.

We also intend to lay our regulations before Parliament soon, and we will be announcing the timetable for when approved PCTs will be able to begin to use direct payments.



Milestones so far in personal health budgets:

2008 – Lord Darzi makes a commitment to a pilot programme for personal health budgets in *High Quality Care for All*

2009 – programme set up: provisional pilot sites named, evaluation team appointed, twenty sites nominated for in-depth study. Health Act passed to allow direct payments piloting and a public consultation is opened

Jan 2010 – direct payments consultation closes; PHBE receives National Ethics Research Service approval

February 2010 – first pilot sites given Research and Development approval

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Events

In Control is hosting **The Big Event** at the BT Convention Centre, Liverpool on 16 March. The event is the largest international convention focused on personalisation in the health and social care sectors, and it's open to everyone. Visit the Department of Health personalisation stand (number 52, opposite the World Café entrance) and meet the personal

health budgets team, as well as colleagues from Transforming Adult Social Care, Pandemic Flu Resilience, Carers Direct and long term conditions programmes.

Several pilot sites held **local events** and **launches** recently, including a stakeholder event for personal health budgets at NHS Dorset and public information events in the Tees area (*pictured right*). Several sites have stakeholder events planned in coming months.



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Focus on workforce engagement

We have been working with partners in the Social Partnership Forum, Skills for Health and NHS Employers to explore some of the potential implications for people working to deliver more personalised services.

This has led to the development of a discussion paper, *Personal health budgets: Understanding the implications for staff*, which is available on the [personal health budgets website](#).

We know that making personal health budgets effective will depend on staff: those who support and agree the care plans and budgets, those who monitor the use of the budget and conditions of individuals and those who deliver services. Personal health budgets and personalisation more widely is likely to require a significant cultural change at all levels of the NHS. There may be far reaching changes to the way in which people work. Front line staff, in particular, need to be engaged and involved from the beginning. The discussion paper sets out some of the things pilot sites need to consider and is intended to stimulate local discussions.



Personal health budgets learning network

If you have an interest in personalisation in health you may find the learning network for the pilot programme www.personalhealthbudgets.org.uk a useful resource. The website is about to get a makeover, so check it out on your next visit.

The website is a source of [news](#), information and [resources](#) about personal health budgets and related areas, and a platform for you to engage in discussion and debate with others who are interested. You can also reach the personal health budgets team by emailing: personalhealthbudgets@dh.gsi.gov.uk.

The screenshot shows the website interface with the following elements:

- Header:** NHS logo, navigation links (Help, Access Keys, Site Map, Your Details, Make Text Larger).
- Search:** Search bar with 'Enter Keywords' and 'Entire Site' dropdown.
- Navigation:** Left sidebar menu with items like 'About personal health budgets', 'About the pilots', 'Topics and Resources', 'News', 'Events', 'Join in', and 'Pilots only section'.
- Main Content:** A row of six photos, followed by a welcome message: 'Welcome to the Personal Health Budget Learning Network. This is a place where people who are interested in personal budgets in the NHS can find out about the pilot programme being run by the Department of Health.' Below this is a link: 'Find out more about the Personal Health Budgets Pilot Programme'.
- Promotional Boxes:**
 - in Control:** 'The personal health budgets Learning Network is being run in partnership with In Control. Many NHS organisations are members of In Control and are working on personalisation in health with them.'
 - Resource Library:** 'Browse our collection of resources'
 - Latest news:** 'Find out more about the Personal Health Budgets' - 'The similarities and differences between healthcare systems in the UK and the USA will come under the microscope during a unique conference at the University of Chester on 22 and 23 October.'

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Earlier information sheets can be found on the personal health budgets pages of the [Department of Health website](#).