

Personal health budgets *update*

November 2010



A pilot programme involving around half the primary care trusts in England is underway to test out personal health budgets in the NHS. An in-depth study with twenty of these sites is part of a wider evaluation exploring how best to implement personal health budgets, and who will benefit most from them. The pilot programme will run until 2012.



Second evaluation report published

The second interim independent evaluation report on the programme has been published by the personal health budgets evaluation (PHBE) team.

The report 'Experiences of implementing personal health budgets' focuses on the views of operational staff, health professionals, commissioning managers and third party budget holders around the implementation of personal health budgets within the 20 in-depth pilot sites.

The paper displays generally positive findings and the overarching view that personal health budgets will have a positive impact on budget holders and carers. This is attributed to:

- Improved process, with more flexibility and more genuine involvement from patients
- An increased focus on the individual and what is important to them

- More of an even relationship between the health care professional and the patient

Issues discussed by interviewees include an acknowledgement of the need for more upfront time in the care planning process; a lack of choice of services; some delays in implementation; and challenges around the culture and the understanding of risk and where it should sit. These are all known and expected challenges, and will help us determine what support pilot sites need in particular areas. The report also highlights the impact the wider changes in the NHS are having on the pilot programme.

All the people recruited to the evaluation will be asked about their health outcomes so we can ascertain whether personal health budgets have been beneficial. Alongside this, a sample of 55 people will be interviewed at length to talk about personal health budgets from their point of view.

The report can be downloaded from the [Learning Network](#) or the [PHBE website](#).

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Facts and figures

31 sites have been awarded full pilot status: **20** in-depth evaluated sites and **11** from the wider cohort. **18** of those sites are now piloting direct payments.

Comprehensive Spending Review 2010

There was clear support for personal budgets in the recent Comprehensive Spending Review. The full CSR can be downloaded from the [HM Treasury website](#). The highlights relating to personal budgets are:

“The Spending Review is underpinned by a radical programme of public service reform, changing the way services are delivered by redistributing power away from central government and enabling sustainable, long term improvements in services. This programme is built on the Coalition principles of increasing freedom and sharing responsibility, by:

- localising power and funding, including by removing ringfencing around resources to local authorities and extending the use of **personal budgets** for service users...
- The Spending Review also shifts power directly into people’s hands by giving them more control over the money spent on public services. The Spending Review announces that the Government will look to significantly extend the use of **personal budgets** across a range of service areas including special education needs, support for children with disabilities, long term health conditions and adult social care”.

Personal health budgets in new Choice consultation

The NHS White Paper ‘Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS’ set out the Government’s ambition to give people more control over their own care. A new consultation on patient choice sets out proposals to meet that ambition.

You can read about personal health budgets in sections 4.25 to 4.28 of the consultation document, ‘Liberating the NHS: Greater choice and control’. Question 44 asks:

“The White Paper indicates that the Government will explore the potential for introducing a right to a personal health budget in discrete areas. Which conditions or services should be included in this right?”

As readers of this publication will have an interest in personal health budgets, it will be particularly helpful to get your views on this question. The consultation, and a linked consultation on information, runs until 14 January 2011. The consultation documents can be found on the [Department of Health website](#) and you can [have your say online](#).

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Direct payments in health

Eighteen pilot sites now have powers to give direct payments for health care, and are starting to offer this as a choice to people with a personal health budget. It is early days but sites are talking to people who, for instance, already have a direct payment for their personal budget in social care and are moving toward also having a direct payment for their health care, or combining the two.

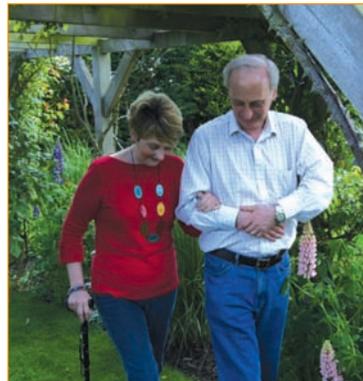
2010 milestones

- **October** – personal health budgets in Choice consultation
- **September-November** – 18 sites now approved to pilot direct payments in health
- **November** – second interim evaluation report published
- **November** – adult social care vision includes personal health budgets
- **November** – personal health budgets in DH 2011-15 business plan

Personal experiences and stories

We are following the **experiences of people with a personal health budget** in the pilot, and have published more of their moving stories on the [Learning Network](#).

Trevor, from Hull, explains how a personal health budget enabled him and wife Anita, who has the degenerative condition Huntington's Disease, to employ carers to provide **much-needed support**.



After learning to walk again following the removal of a benign brain tumour Sandie, from Norfolk, was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. She uses her personal health budget to **keep healthy at home** with her husband Arthur, and reduce the pain caused by MS.

Debbie, from Doncaster, used a personal health budget to organise **flexible nursing care** at her home after her father, Brian, became immobile and needed 24/7 care after a series of strokes.

If you have a personal health budget or are close to someone who does, and would like to share your story, please contact us at personalhealthbudgets@dh.gsi.gov.uk

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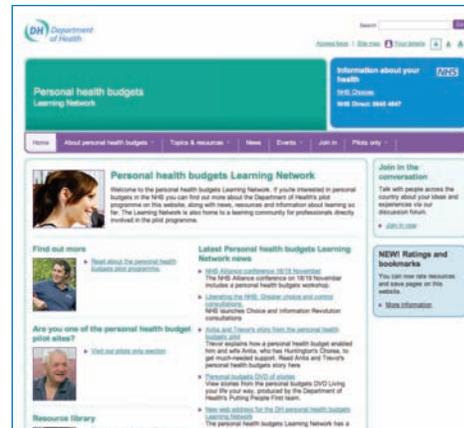
In **October**, we spoke about personal health budgets at an acquired brain injury conference and at a personalisation event for the East Midlands NHS workforce.

We met in **November** with the twenty sites participating in the pilot's in-depth study, where we talked together about work in progress, the evaluation and what emerging policy means for personal health budgets.

At the annual [NHS Alliance conference](#) in **November**, we participated in a workshop about personal health budgets and integrating care around the patient.

On **27 January 2011**, we are speaking at the Capita personal health budgets conference in central London. The event will be chaired by Vidhya Alakeson, Senior Fellow in Health Policy, and is aimed at professionals who are interested in the personal health budgets policy, but not necessarily participating in the Department of Health pilot.

Personal health budgets Learning Network



If you have an interest in personalisation in health, then take a look at the online Learning Network for the pilot programme.

The website is a source of [news](#), [stories](#) and [resources](#) about personal health budgets and related areas, and a platform for you to engage in [discussion](#) with others who are interested.

We recently launched a new web address for the Network – www.dh.gov.uk/personalhealthbudgets. Check out our information pages for [people](#), [families](#) and [carers](#) interested in personal health budgets and for [health and social care professionals](#). We've also added some extra functions to the site. It's now really easy to save pages you like and rate resources, so you can find and share the things you find most useful. Look out for the stars! While you're on the site, take the chance to update your web Favourites settings and check you're subscribed to our forum and newsletter (just click on 'Your Details' at the top of any page).

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Contact us by emailing the personal health budgets team at: personalhealthbudgets@dh.gsi.gov.uk. You can also find more information about personal health budgets on our policy pages on the [Department of Health website](#).