

Personal health budgets *update*

October 2011



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.

People to have greater choice and control over their care

Health Secretary Andrew Lansley has announced that by April 2014, subject to the evaluation, people eligible for NHS Continuing Healthcare will have the right to ask for a personal health budget – including a direct payment. This means that while personal health budgets could be rolled out on a voluntary basis to a wider group of patients, subject to the evaluation, NHS Continuing Healthcare would be the first area that would be covered by a right to ask for a personal budget.

The announcement re-emphasises the Government's support for personal health budgets, while recognising the importance of the evaluation in deciding long-term eligibility.

Andrew Lansley said:

“Personal health budgets allow people to work with the NHS so that they can receive more personal, more tailored care which fit with an individual's life and uses resources most effectively. This is a solution which must come as part of a cultural shift for doctors, healthcare professionals, providers and patients which

sees the patient as an equal partner in decisions about their care.” The full announcement is on the [Learning Network](#).

Fourth evaluation report published

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

“Early experiences of budget holders” interviews 58 budget holders in the pilot about their experiences of personal health budgets after three months. The report is positive, with some people already experiencing improved health outcomes. Key findings include that the role of information is key; and those eligible for NHS Continuing Healthcare tended to find the process easier, and reported benefits earlier.

The report does highlight some issues which will need to be resolved and detailed work is underway to explore these and develop best practice that the NHS will need to deliver personal health budgets in the longer term. The report is on the [Learning Network](#).

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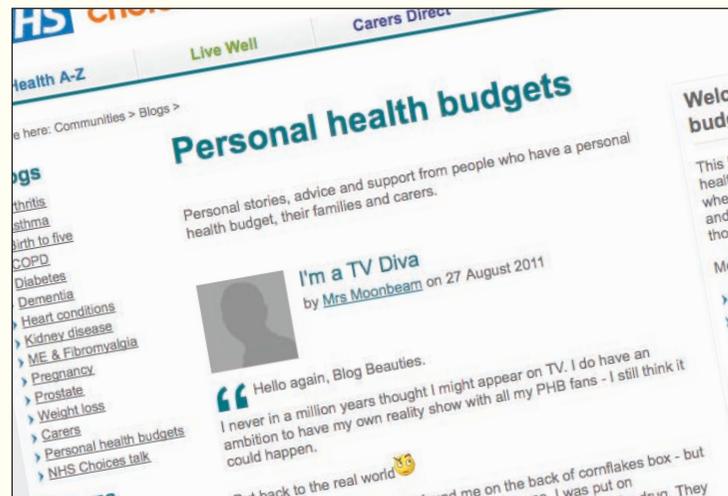
Milestones ●

New blog on NHS Choices

The new online community on the NHS Choices website, www.nhs.uk/phbcommunity is a virtual space where people with a personal health budget, their families and carers – and those who are interested in finding out more – can talk about their experiences, share knowledge and support each other.

The community has been a success so far and a new blog has been launched. Check out the insightful [blog posts](#) and join in the discussion with the PHB community.

You can also visit our online [Learning Network](#) for the pilot – a great source of news, stories and key reading.



Stories DVD launch

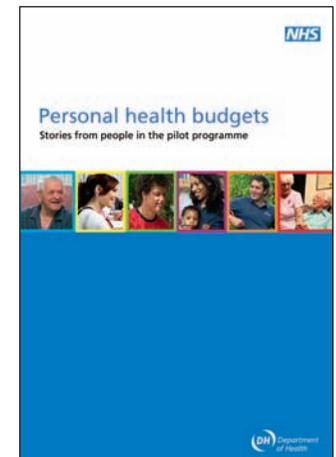
Over the course of the pilot we have been following the experiences of people with a personal health budget, and publishing their inspiring stories on our [Learning Network](#).

Recently we've published interviews with Pat, from Birmingham, Martin, from Hartlepool, and Haris and Chelsey, both from Kent.

Eight stories on film have now been collated as a DVD. "Personal health budgets: stories from people in the pilot programme" has been launched with an introduction from the Minister of State for Care Services, Paul Burstow. The people in the films describe what the personal health budgets process is like, what they spend their money on and how they made those decisions. The films also include the perspectives of family carers and health care professionals. We hope they illustrate the kind of choices people can make if they have a personal health budget, and the positive impact it can have on their health and lives.

The films can all be viewed on the stories page of the Learning Network, with more information about the DVD. The Department of Health sincerely thanks everyone who has been involved in the films and all the other interviews so far.

We want to continue interviewing people so their experiences can be shared with others. 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





Programme update

Intensive work is underway with pilot sites in this third and final year of the programme, to prepare for rollout. You can find out more about the programme on the [Learning Network](#).

Some of the work already underway includes:

- Budget setting: A number of sites are testing out efficient and reliable ways of setting budgets, for continuing healthcare; services for people with long term conditions; and mental health services.
- Integration: Nine sites are working with Local Authority

colleagues around how to make integrated health and social care budgets a reality.

- Care and support planning: There are projects on care and support planning in a number of sites, involving people who have personal health budgets and frontline practitioners. They will look at key issues such as how plans are signed off, and how care planning fits with other parts of the NHS system.

The learning from these and a wide range of other projects will be available to the NHS to support rollout of personal health budgets from October 2012.

Views from all angles

Personal health budgets are being piloted in nearly half the country, but usually on a small scale. They are new to the NHS and there is still much to learn about how they can be introduced effectively everywhere.

As well as the day-to-day work of Primary Care and Provider Trusts on

the programme, we are working with people who have budgets, frontline practitioners and providers to ensure that their expertise and concerns inform our work.

A peer network of people with budgets, and their families, is involved in our development work, so that we keep sight of what is really important. They are actively sharing their experiences of getting personal health budgets, through blogs, discussion forums and talking to groups.

A practitioners network of frontline staff who have supported people to get their budgets will come together again later this autumn. They will share what they have learnt, to help other health practitioners do their jobs well.

This October the NHS Confederation chaired a National Provider Development Forum. This group will begin to identify what providers and commissioners need to think about to respond to this agenda, building on knowledge in social care.

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Facts and figures

42 sites have been awarded full pilot status: all **20** in-depth evaluated sites and **22** from the wider cohort, with **29** of these sites now piloting direct payments.

Use the [interactive map](#) on the personal health budgets Learning Network to find out if the pilot is in your area.

2011 milestones

- **July** – third interim evaluation report published.
- **July** – recruitment to the pilot complete.
- **October** – fourth interim evaluation report published.
- **October** – stories DVD launched.
- **October** – CHC right to ask for a personal health budget from 2014 announced.

Children and young people

The Government recently announced that **20 pathfinders, covering 31 local authorities and their Primary Care Trust (PCT) partners will be testing the main proposals in the special educational needs and disability (SEND) Green Paper, including a single assessment process, plan and personal budget.**

DH and DfE will be working in partnership on this initiative, with 18 personal health budget sites also pathfinder sites. For more information on the SEND Green Paper work and a list of pathfinders, please visit the [DfE website](#).

Self Care Week

14-20 November 2011

Helping people take care of themselves

www.nhs.uk/selfcare

