



Personal budgets:

What does this mean for Hackney's voluntary and community sector?

What are these changes to adult social care?

This is new way of providing social care which gives more control and choice to the adults who need it. The system is so new that the words used to describe it are still being worked out, so you will hear many terms used - personalisation, individual budgets, personal budgets, self directed support or the transformation agenda. In this briefing, we will use **personal budgets**.

Why should I be interested?

By April 2011, the Government recommends that each local authority should have 30% of adults getting social care using personal budgets. We all need to be prepared as these changes will affect groups across the voluntary and community sector (VCS) not just the people concerned or those working in social care.

Opportunities for the voluntary and community sector (VCS)

- **The VCS as service providers:** especially for groups who provide services for 'niche markets'. For example, refugee groups who don't currently provide care services but whose services are specific to language or culture could take advantage of these opportunities.
- **The VCS as providers of information, advice and guidance and advocacy:** This system will rely on people having good information and support from their assessment to choosing which services they want.

Self directed support is a new way of thinking and working. Your VCS organisation will be openly competing with other providers including the private sector and non traditional services. You will have to advertise directly to the people who are looking for their adult social care and they will decide whether to pay for your service or not.

This means:

- **Your services will have to fit or be tailored to people's needs**
- **You will have to make sure you know how much your service costs**
- **Funding will be insecure as people may leave your service.**

What you can do to prepare for these changes

- Learn how to market or promote your services
- Understand the full costs of your services and how to price them
- Have an evaluation system to show what difference your service is making to people's lives - the NHS and local authority want evidence on what is working for local people
- Look at working together with other organisations to market services.

What will change for adults needing social care services?

How the system used to work

Step 1: I am assessed by a social worker as having critical and substantial needs and so am eligible for services.

Step 2: Social Worker offers me services – through a 'care package' – like day centres, meals on wheels or home care. These are provided by the local authority or purchased through 'block contracts' – a set contract with price and numbers of people seen, agreed at the start of the year.

How the new system will work

Step 1: I am assessed by a social worker as having critical and substantial needs and so am eligible for services.

Step 2: I do an 'assisted assessment' which is 'outcome focussed' – based on my own ambitions for my life. I can choose to do the assessment myself or get support from family, friends, advice agencies, social workers or community groups.

Step 3: The local authority will give me an 'indicative budget' – an estimate of what my weekly personal budget will be based on my needs and outcomes.

Step 4: Choosing where to get support, I will pick for myself the activities I want to do to reach my outcomes.

Step 5: The local authority agrees my activities and budget (or there's further negotiation) and I start my services.



Personal budgets:

Support available for Hackney's voluntary and community sector

How can I get more information on changes to adult social care?

The information here is only an introduction to personal budgets. Below is information on support available to benefit your VCS group.

Support with marketing your organisation

The City & Hackney Health & Social Care Forum or HSCF is developing a database of all the health and social care VCS services provided in City and Hackney. The public and local authority will be able to use this to find which adult social care service they want to spend their budget on.

Action for you: Put your organisation on this database by completing a questionnaire about your adult social care services. Contact Jackie Brett on 0207 923 8361 or Jackie.hscf@googlemail.com or visit www.hscf.org.uk

Free training

Together with Hackney Council and HCVS, HSCF has developed a free training programme 'Getting ready for personalisation' which includes:

- **Effective partnership working:** 1 day course on 10 February 2010
- **Marketing Services with a community focus:** 2 day course on 25 February and 18 March 2010
- **Managing Community Projects:** 1 day course on 28 January or 23 March 2010
- **Finance for non-financial managers:** 1 day course on 4 February or 30 March 2010

Action for you: Have a look at the training brochure with this mailing or on the HCVS website - www.hcvs.org.uk and click on free training or visit www.hscf.org.uk See which courses you need and book your place.

What else would help you get ready for the new system?

HSCF and HCVS are planning training from April 2010; contact Jackie below to talk about what training you need.

For more information contact: Jackie Brett on 0207 923 8361 or Jackie.hscf@googlemail.com or visit www.hscf.org.uk

Things to look out for in 2010

Come along to our HSCF meeting

Find out all about personal budgets at the next HSCF meeting on Monday, 18 January 2pm - 4pm at Hackney Carers Centre in Dalston E8 2LY.

Pratima Solanki, Assistant Director - Strategy, Performance and Improvement at Hackney Council will discuss the latest news on this.

Get involved through CEN community representation on the local authority's Business Transformation project boards

The Community Empowerment Network (CEN) will be advertising CEN rep positions in January 2010. These reps will give views from the VCS to Team Hackney's planning group on personal budgets. CEN reps will also bring information on these changes back to the sector through CEN, community networks and HSCF and HCVS newsletters.

Sign up to our newsletter

Don't miss out on the latest updates: Visit www.hscf.org.uk and click on **Changes in adult social care** or sign up to HSCF E-newsletter by clicking on the **Join us** page.