

Working with disabled children,
young people and their families



Taking a Personal Approach: A Parents Guide to Personal Budgets

Background

In March 2011, the Government released '[Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability](#)' a Green Paper that unveiled proposals for the biggest programme of reform in education, social care and health support for disabled children and young people in 30 years.

The core principle is to:

- Simplify the process of assessing each child's needs so that they and their parents and carers have greater choice in deciding what kind of support best suits them and the ways in which they can receive it.

This way of working is called a person centred approach.

Background

The reforms are set out in the Government's formal response to the public consultation on its green paper, published in May 2012

The main elements are:

- Replacing SEN statements and separate learning difficulty assessments (for older children) with a single, simpler 'birth to 25 years' assessment process and an education, health and care plan from 2014. Families with the plans would have the right to a personal budget for their support.
- Local authorities and health services will be required to link up services for disabled children and young people.
- Requiring local authorities to publish the support available locally to disabled children and young people and those with SEN and their families.
- Introducing mediation for disputes and trialling giving children the right to appeal if they are unhappy with their support.
- Children would have a new legal right to seek a place at state academies and Free Schools. Local authorities would have to name the parent's preferred school so long it was suitable.

This month the Children and Families Bill received it's first reading in the House of Commons and is due to be passed into law later this year.

What happened next?

The Department for Education and Department of Health selected 20 Special Educational Needs and Disability Pathfinders. These pathfinders are made up of local authorities and their primary care trust partners.

The pathfinders were asked to develop a more family friendly, personalised approach to providing children and young people's services.

The pathfinders are also testing personal budgets which families will be able to spend on the services they choose for their child.

To support this work, KIDS was contracted by the Department for Education to develop resources for parents and carers of disabled children and young people to explain some of the changes taking place and how they could affect families with disabled children.

Resources have also been developed for commissioners.

The Making it Personal Project

KIDS 'Making it Personal' project was commissioned by the Department for Education to provide direct advice and information to parents, young people and commissioners on personal budgets.

KIDS received a two year SEN and Disability grant to deliver this work in April 2011

KIDS have worked in partnership with In Control, OPM, NAFIS, Daycare Trust and Disability Rights UK

What is Personalisation?

Personalisation is about putting the individual person in the centre and everyone involved with that child working together as equal partners to support them and enable them to achieve their potential in all areas of life.

As equal partners, the child or young person and their family are actively involved.

Personalisation cont...

Personalisation is all about including and valuing disabled children and young people in their communities.

Your child:

- is seen as an individual, with particular strengths, hopes, likes and dislikes
- is at the centre of everyone's thinking and planning
- gets what they need rather than being told to fit in to what's available locally
- has support to reach their full potential
- Is involved in all decisions (within individual capacity)

Your family:

- has control and choice
- is involved in all decisions

Support and Aspiration

“In future we want to give more families the opportunity to take up this offer to control the funding and to design their own tailored package of support once their children’s needs have been assessed as part of the new statutory ‘Education, Health and Care Plan’.

By 2014, our intention is that all families with the proposed ‘Education, Health and Care Plan’ will be entitled to a personal budget. Subject to piloting, this would include funding for education and health support as well as social care.”

Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability –
A consultation. (DfE, 2011)

What has been developed?

KIDS and partners have worked with families and commissioners to develop the following resources:

- Case studies identifying a range of experiences in moving to personal budgets and illustrating imaginative use of personal budgets
- Accessible handbook and online guidance for parents
- Guidance for commissioners

All these resources are available to download from KIDS website – visit: www.kids.org.uk/mip

For more information and to
view the resources visit our
KIDS stand

Alternatively visit our
website at:
www.kids.org.uk/mip

