

Personal health budgets *update*



July 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.

Positive future for personal health budgets

The Government has announced its support for the extension of personal health budgets nationally. A listening exercise, led by the NHS Future Forum, made use of the natural pause in the passage of the Health Bill to pause, listen, reflect and improve the Government's proposals for the future of the NHS.

On 13 June, the Future Forum published [key recommendations](#) to the Government for what a future NHS should look like. This stressed the importance of increasing the use of personal health budgets. [The Government response](#), published on 20 June, accepted the core recommendations.

Chapter 5 of the response relates to choice, and says of personal health budgets: "Subject to evidence from the current pilots, the mandate to the Board will also make it a priority to **extend personal health budgets**, including integrated personal budgets across health and social care.

The Forum's report emphasises how personal budgets can help improve outcomes and join up services for users, especially when they are offered in an integrated way across health and social care. Our ambition is to use the powers in the Bill to introduce over time a right to a personal health budget for patients who would benefit from one, in line with the Forum's recommendation. We will consult further on the details."

Third interim evaluation report published

The third interim independent evaluation report on the pilot will be published by the personal health budgets evaluation (PHBE) team on 15 July.

"The cost of implementing personal health budgets" looks at set-up costs involved for the 20 in-depth evaluated pilot sites to implement personal health budgets. Costs examined include project management, system development, workforce development and support planning and brokerage. The report also explores reasons for variation in costs between sites. This knowledge will help us plan for the roll-out of personal health budgets. The report will be available on the [PHBE website](#) and on our [Learning Network](#).

Positive future ●

Mental health ●

Practitioners network ●

Personal stories ●

Milestones ●

Meetings ●

PHB community ●





Personal stories

As part of the pilot we've been following the experiences of people with a personal health budget, and publishing their stories as written interviews and films on the [stories page](#) of our Learning Network.

Louise, 90 and from West Sussex, has Alzheimer's disease. Her personal health budget, as a direct payment for health care, pays for personal assistants to care for her at home. Her daughter Mary says that Louise's quality of life has "increased exponentially".

David, from Nottingham, also has a direct payment for health care. He has T5 paraplegia from the chest down, and needs dressings on his legs changed daily. With his budget, David was able to arrange training for his personal assistants to do this. Their flexible schedule means that David can go to work when he needs to instead of waiting for the district nurse (who now comes for a weekly check).

The Community Neurology Service in Nottingham is an integrated health



and social care team of social workers, occupational therapists, nurses and physiotherapists. The team works with people who have complex long-term neurological conditions, and is now introducing some of them to personal health budgets. The team share their thoughts and experiences so far.

Following a stroke, Rose, 91, from Swindon, has aphasia, communication difficulty. She partly chose to use her budget for transport to a communication group, helping Rose increase her confidence in talking.

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

2010/11 milestones

- **May** – engagement workshops with smaller health care providers.
- **June** – 29 sites now approved to pilot direct payments for health care.
- **June** – Government response to NHS Future Forum supports extension of personal health budgets.

The Department for Education's (DfE) special educational needs and disability (SEND) Green Paper was published in March. The DfE and the Department of Health are now seeking bids from areas wanting to test the core proposals from the Green Paper: a single assessment process, plan and a personal budget. More information can be found on the [DfE website](#).

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Meetings

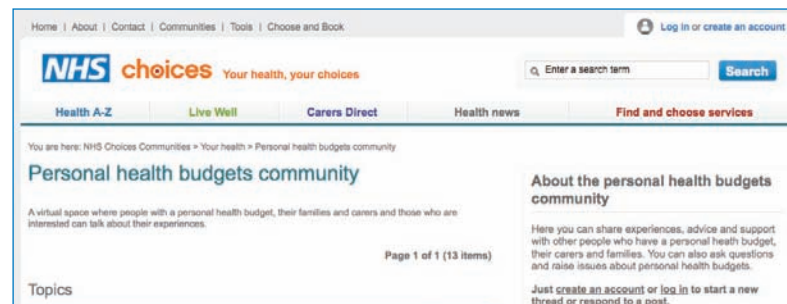
In May, we spoke at the Managing Long Term Conditions conference in Harrogate.

The personal health budgets policy team headlined the Westminster Health Forum event "Pilots, personalisation and empowerment" at the Royal Society in London. The seminar examined key issues in light of the Government's reiterated commitment to the scheme.

On 22 June Dr Alison Austin, head of the policy team, gave a keynote speech about the future of personal health budgets at an Inside Government event in London: "Choice, flexibility and control over health services". We also had a stand at the College of OTs conference in June.

Regionally, successful personalisation events were run by pilot sites and SHAs in the East Midlands, South East Coast and East of England.

New PHB community www.nhs.uk/phbcommunity



We're excited to announce a new [online community](#). This is a virtual space where people with a personal health budget, their families and carers can talk about their experiences, share knowledge and support each other.

Part of the NHS Choices website, it is already full of lively discussion. Pilot sites will be sharing the web address with people being offered a budget and the community welcomes everyone interested in personal health budgets, whether they are part of the DH pilot or not.

You can also visit the [online Learning Network for the pilot](#) – a great source of news, stories and key reading whether you [have a personal health budget](#), or are a [health and social care professional](#) interested in personalisation.

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](#).