

"In Control", Individualised Budgets and Self-Directed Support (*ref 45*)

- 1.** Government policy says that disabled people should be given control over how they plan and spend the funding for the support they need.
- 2.** This will transform the current system of social care provision by local authorities into a system of self-directed support, paid for by disabled people being given individualised budgets.
- 3.** The initial stages of this process have been led by "In Control" (www.in-control.org.uk), a collaborative venture between statutory services, central government and the voluntary sector. 13 Local Authorities piloted the "In Control" scheme. Over 50 Local Authorities are now involved in working with individuals to set up self-directed support.
- 4.** Two of the main principles of "In Control" are that people have the right to an individualised budget, and that they should be able to use this money creatively and flexibly. There are ways for Local Authorities to calculate how much each individual is entitled to via a resource allocation process.
- 5.** The "In Control" way of paying for social care also emphasises the vital role that family and friends have to play, as opposed to them being marginalised.
- 6.** Individualised budgets are more than the current system of direct payments. The intention is that in time different sources of funding (e.g. Independent Living Fund, Supporting People, Disabled Facilities Grant, Access to Work etc) will be included in an individual's budget.
- 7.** At this stage there is no link between this new way of organising social care and planning answers to housing problems. Housing Options is currently working on models of advice and support which people receiving individualised budgets can make use of.

If you require further information or have other queries contact Housing Options.

Housing Options, Stanelaw House, Sutton Lane, Sutton, Witney, Oxfordshire, OX29 5RY, United Kingdom
Telephone: +44 (0)845 4561497 E-mail: enquiries@housingoptions.org.uk

Although we try to ensure that statements as to the law and other facts are accurate this report gives general guidance and does not aim to cater for individual cases. Housing Options and our sponsors cannot accept responsibility for any loss incurred as a result of relying on such statements, specific advice should always be obtained on individual cases.

© All rights reserved. No reproduction is permitted without written permission from Housing Options.