

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST IN CONTROL UPDATE

Welcome to the latest edition of the Southampton – Putting People First newsletter!

‘Burning Issues’ - Southampton Care Managers influencing the transformation of adult social care

Jeff Jerome, the national Director for social care transformation, has made it clear – “...personal budgets are a given” they will happen and they are happening across the country and by 2011 all people receiving public funding for adult social care will be allocated a personal budget.

But there are still key ‘burning issues’ to be addressed. Over the last few weeks these issues have been tackled by Southampton’s Care Managers’ Think Tank and their conclusions will be used to inform the development of Southampton – Putting People First as well as the work of regional Transforming Social Care forums. Below are three of these issues and some of the conclusions from our Think Tank:

Burning issue 1: How do we ensure that the person needing social care is seen as the expert about meeting their assessed needs?

The Think Tank welcomed the development of our Citizen Leadership Group and supported the move to ensure that a representative of that group sits on the Putting People First Programme Board to influence decision-making.

They wanted to see the Council and partners taking part in mandatory training which emphasises how people needing social care should be supported and empowered by professionals to take control of identifying needs and to make real life choices that may involve taking ‘positive’ risks.

Burning Issue 2: How do we get older people interested in using personal budgets?

Some older people will use their Personal Budgets, because they see the benefits, and will not feel anxious about doing so. However, it was acknowledged that national research shows that many older people do feel anxious about Personal Budgets. A proposed solution was to ensure that good support arrangements are in place, particularly peer support.

Burning Issue 3: How does the council stimulate a diverse social care marketplace where people can spend their Personal Budgets?

It was recognised that as Personal Budgets increase the demand in the adult social care marketplace for more diverse services and activities to meet assessed needs, then there is going to be a need to improve the supply. This they believed had to involve the stimulation of good quality voluntary sector provision to ensure a balance with larger private sector providers seeking business opportunities.

If you want to remind yourselves of the national aims of Putting People First go to:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/LocalAuthorityCirculars/DH_095719

Toolbox!

A number of questions have come to me via the personal budgets e-mail. Below are the answers to three of those questions:

Are we still doing Direct Payments?

Now we are full steam ahead, looking for 20 people on Personal Budgets each month, please remember that Direct Payments are now only an option via the Personal Budget pathway. Existing Direct Payment clients will remain unchanged for now. For more information follow the link below to the Putting People First Checklist.

How do we double-check what to do about Personal Budgets?

The Putting People First Checklist is available on the intranet at: <http://intranet.southampton.gov.uk/yourcouncil/directoratedivisionalnewsinformation/chc/hcc/policy-practice/pp-first/pathways.asp>.

Please familiarise yourself with the checklist and ensure that any references to recording on PARIS are adhered to. This is essential for monitoring the client through the PPF pathway.

How do we get our service users' funds paid as quickly as possible?

Please remember to inform all service users that their personal budget will not be available to them until the Financial Assessment has been completed by the FAB team and the Support Plan has been agreed. A service user's funding, less any contribution they need to make towards the cost of their care, will not then be released until the correct intervention is on PARIS.

Please explain, in the simplest terms, what a Resource Allocation System (RAS) is, so that I can explain it to others?

In its simplest terms, the RAS consists of three main components:

- A self assessment questionnaire (SAQ) that seeks to identify a service users' support needs
- A points allocation system which translates these needs into points to reflect the relative scale of these needs; and
- A 'pounds per point' calculation that converts the points into a sum of money, known as the indicative personal budget.

If you have any questions about personal budgets please e-mail them to personal.budgets@southampton.gov.uk .

Warm Front

I know we are in the middle of a heat wave as this newsletter goes out, but don't forget the Warm Front Scheme, which is about helping people to keep their houses warm. Important information is that the Scheme has increased to £2,500 and the City Council can add up to £2,000 on top of that if work that is eligible under the Warm Front Grant exceeds the £2,500 grant. To find out more about Warm Front click on the link below:

<http://www.southampton.gov.uk/housing/moneysolutions/homesafety/hotline.asp#0>