



Office for Disability Issues

HM Government

Right to Control trailblazer update 2009/2

Issue 2 – November 2009

Introduction

Dear all

This is the second update from the Right to Control team. Since our last update the Welfare Reform Bill has become the Welfare Reform Act 2009, and we have held two events, one in London and one in Manchester. It was great to meet so many of you and get some key input on the Right to Control trailblazers. We hope it was as useful and informative for you as it was for us.

A number of questions were raised about the application process at the workshops we held in London and in Manchester. We will be issuing a formal Prospectus in early December but in this Newsletter we provide answers to some of the questions raised in the workshops.

What is the deadline for applications and when will decisions be made?

Key dates are:

- 8 December 2009 – Prospectus issued and proposals invited
- 15 January 2010 – Deadline for proposals
- January 2010 – Proposals assessed by the selection panel



- 25, 28 January and 2 February 2010 – Presentations for shortlisted applicants to the selection panel
- February 2010 – Trailblazers announced
- Early 2010 – Grant letter issued
- April 2010 – Start up workshop
- April to May 2010 – Development of action plans
- Autumn 2010 – Trailblazers go live

We appreciate that these timescales are ambitious so ask you to plan these into diaries now, 25, 28 January and 2 February in particular. We also recommend that you build in time for securing Member and senior official sign off for your bids now – and consider whether you would want them to be part of the team that presents to the selection panel. Getting this on to executive meeting agendas and achieving requirements such as co-production take time. So, prompt action now to enable well developed and thought out bids is essential.

What support will be available to trailblazers?

ODI is committed to working with trailblazer sites to ensure successful delivery of the Right to Control, and to minimise duplication of effort. Support (which will be further tailored in discussion with trailblazers) will comprise a range of different elements.

- Ongoing support from ODI – clearing barriers at the centre, issuing advice and guidance, managing effective support from expert providers, encouraging local collaboration.
- ‘Kick-start’ support to help new trailblazers get up and running quickly. A package of support offering expert advice and guidance

on set-up, governance, action planning, data sharing, systems changes; and on issues specific to funding streams.

- 'Field support' to work with trailblazers up to go live and during the life of the trailblazer, monitoring progress, identifying and resolving local issues, sharing emerging practice, developing materials. (A similar role was performed by CSIP for the Individual Budget pilots.)
- An effective learning and support network for the trailblazer sites to share learning, good practice and materials.

What do we need to put in our bids?

Trailblazer proposals will have to demonstrate that they can deliver the Right to Control within their area. This means

- that across all the funding streams they must be able to inform the disabled person of their right, and of the value of the resources available for their support
- that they must work with the person to determine outcomes
- prepare and keep under review a 'support plan'
- make direct payments if they are requested
- and arrange services in line with the support plan as far as reasonably practicable.

This is set out in section 40 of the Welfare Reform Act 2009.

Assuming that a bid meets the requirements of the Act, we will be looking for bids to deliver the three key objectives of Right to Control trailblazers:

- to test the most effective ways of delivering choice and control to disabled people

- to test aligning and streamlining different funding streams to achieve agreed outcomes for disabled people
- to provide robust evidence on the Right to Control for the ODI evaluation.

We expect bids to demonstrate:

- innovation
- deliverability, financial and operational feasibility
- local leadership and senior commitment
- engagement with, and involvement of, disabled people and user led organisations
- the support they would offer disabled people to help them access the Right to Control (information and advice, support, advocacy and brokerage services)

Finally, we will be seeking factual information on the nature and characteristics of the area to be included in the bid (demographics, disadvantage etc). We will also need estimates of the numbers of new customers likely to flow on to the relevant funding streams over the life of the trailblazer in order to ensure that the scale is sufficient for our evaluation.

What sort of changes do we need to be making?

We are keen for trailblazers to test a number of models for implementing the Right to Control and for streamlining processes across funding streams. Approaches may vary but are likely to include:

- greater cross-department/agency co-ordination to ensure that people are informed of all relevant funding streams they are eligible for at any point of entry
- alignment or integration of assessments, review processes and administrative procedures
- co-ordination of information, advice and advocacy services for people eligible for the Right to Control
- integration of individual budgets and support planning functions across different funding streams
- creation of shared processes for enabling disabled people to access their resources in the form of a cash payment. This might include the integration of existing payments and the development of protocols to allow recharging between departments and agencies
- development of joint commissioning strategies.

Useful information

You may find the following reports helpful in constructing trailblazer bids.

Firstly, [Learning and experiences from the Individual Budget Pilot sites](#); a paper on lessons learnt from implementing Supporting People into the Individual Budgets pilots.

Secondly, the Department of Health have produced a suite of helpful reports on the subject of contracting and commissioning personalised services at www.dhcarenetworks.org.uk. Annex A (below) highlights particular guides that might be of interest.

Draft Application Form

At the events last week there were a number of requests for a draft trailblazer bid application form so that people can start build and shape their bids now with a fuller understanding of what we will be looking for bids to contain. We hope to send this out to you later this week. While this will largely reflect the final form, please remember that it is a draft. The final form will be issued in the Right to Control Prospectus.

Further information and advice

If you have any other questions about the application process or generally about the Right to Control, please don't hesitate to contact us.

We are keen to encourage dialogue with you in the bidding process and to help you put together your bid. Please feel free to contact:

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Annex A

Department of Health Guidance on Contracting and Commissioning
Personalised Services

Supporting micromarket development (concise and detailed guides)

http://www.dhcarenetworks.org.uk/library/Resources/Personalisation/Personalisation_advice/SSMSCSEconciseguide.pdf

http://www.dhcarenetworks.org.uk/library/Resources/Personalisation/Personalisation_advice/SSMSCSEFullreport.pdf

Contracting for personalised outcomes

http://www.dhcarenetworks.org.uk/library/Resources/Personalisation/Personalisation_advice/CFPO.pdf

Commissioning for Personalisation: A Framework for Local Authority
Commissioners

[http://www.dhcarenetworks.org.uk/library/Resources/Personalisation/Personalisation_advice/Commissioning for Personalisation -
_A Framework for Local Authority Commissioners.pdf](http://www.dhcarenetworks.org.uk/library/Resources/Personalisation/Personalisation_advice/Commissioning_for_Personalisation_-_A_Framework_for_Local_Authority_Commissioners.pdf)

Working together for change: using person-centred information for
commissioning

http://www.dhcarenetworks.org.uk/library/Resources/Personalisation/Personalisation_advice/WTFC_Final.pdf