



Office for Disability Issues

HM Government



Right to Control trailblazer update 2009/4

Issue 4 – December 2009

Dear all,

This is the fourth update from the Right to Control team. Since we last wrote to you, we have invited bids from potential Trailblazers and we have published the Government's response to the consultation exercise we held over the summer. This document, and the Prospectus setting out how to bid, can be found at www.odi.gov.uk/working/information-la.php

News in brief

- In response to your concerns, we have extended the deadline for final submissions to become a Right to Control Trailblazer to 29 January 2010. See the letter on page 6 from Jonathan Shaw, Minister for Disabled People.
- We have arranged 'how to bid' workshops in early January for potential Trailblazers and their partners/providers. Please let us know if you have specific areas you would like covered.
- A list of frequently asked questions is included in this briefing, in response to your queries.

Key dates: Timetable of events:

- 29 January 2010 – Deadline for return of bids to ODI
- w/c 1 February 2010 – Proposals assessed by the sift panel
- w/c 8 and w/c 15 February 2010 – Presentations by shortlisted Trailblazer bids to the selection panel (if required)
- Late February 2010 – Trailblazers announced.
- March/April 2010 – Grant letters issued
- March/April 2010 – ‘Kick start’ support available to Trailblazers
- April 2010 – Start up workshop(s)
- April to May 2010 – Development of action plans
- April to September 2010 – ongoing set-up support from ODI
- Late 2010 – Trailblazers go live

The three key stages of the selection process

The selection process for shortlisting Right to Control Trailblazers is split into three stages. This is to ensure that the bids

- meet the minimum requirements expected of trailblazers
- are both innovative and feasible, and
- that we have a range of approaches from different areas to inform a wider roll-out.

Stage One: Minimum requirements

To pass from stage one to stage two, bids must demonstrate that they meet all minimum requirements, as set out on the application form.

A summary of the minimum requirements can be found in section 3.8 of the prospectus.

Stage Two: Specific proposals

Under stage two, questions will be scored in relation to the quality thresholds set out in section 5.3 of the prospectus. We will be looking for ambitious but realistic proposals, which demonstrate commitment to successful delivery of Right to Control in co-production with disabled people.

The quality thresholds are:

- consistency with the overarching objectives (see section 3.1 of the prospectus) and desired outcomes (see section 2.4 of the prospectus) of the Right to Control
- financial and operational feasibility
- local leadership and support
- engagement with, and involvement of, disabled people and user led organisations (co-production)
- support to disabled people to enable them to access the Right to Control (information and advice, support, advocacy and brokerage services)
- confidence that the proposals will be delivered, and
- innovation and enthusiasm.

Stage Three: Scoring the characteristics of the area

It is important that selected proposals contribute to the evaluation and could be capable of replication across the country. In order to help us assess this, we have asked that you provide us some factual information on the nature and characteristics of your area, and the extent to which personalisation has already been developed (see section 5.3 of the Right to Control prospectus). This is not to suggest we will only select areas where the personalisation agenda is advanced – we are looking at areas which reflect a range of readiness and capability.

'How to bid' workshops

We will be running two workshops, on 7 and 8 January 2010, in Manchester and London for those actively engaged in preparing bids to become Right to Control Trailblazers.

The flyer and application for these events appears at the end of the newsletter at Annex 1.

Frequently Asked Questions

Attached at Annex 2, is a list of Frequently Asked Questions. You may find these helpful when compiling your bid.

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:

Mike Crowhurst

Email: Michael.Crowhurst@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Telephone: 0207 449 5091

Emmanuel Okello

Email: Emmanuel.Okello@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Telephone: 0207 449 5048

Annex 1

Right to Control workshop:

Help with developing your bid to become a Right to Control Trailblazer

- Are you now developing your bid to become a Right to Control Trailblazer?
- Would you like to put questions to the Right to Control team about the bid requirements or the bid process?

Following the publication of the Right to Control prospectus on 8 December, we are running two workshops to help local authorities, Jobcentre Plus and their partners prepare bids to become a Right to Control Trailblazer.

- 7 January 2010, in Manchester. Time and location to be confirmed
- 8 January 2010, between 10.00 and 14.30, event will be held at [Oval Events Ltd](#) The Brit Insurance Oval, Kennington, London, SE11 5SS

What do you want to get out of the workshop?

To enable us to tailor these events to your requirements, please let us know what questions or areas you would like us to cover at the events by 29 December 2009. We will then design the workshops to focus on the most popular issues and questions.

Please indicate your interest in attending one of the events by giving your details below and return this form to right.control@dwp.gsi.gov.uk by 29 December 2009.

Event: London / Manchester (delete as appropriate)

Name:

Job title:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Local authority:

No. of attendees (we request that you send no more than 3 delegates per bid site):

Dietary requirements:

Other requirements (eg disabled access)

Questions or issues you would like to see covered at the event:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

If you wish to discuss aspects of the above, please contact Mike Crowhurst on 0207 449 5091 or email

Michael.Crowhurst@dwp.gsi.gov.uk or

Emmanuel.Okello@dwp.gsi.gov.uk 0207 449 5048

Annex 2: Frequently Asked Questions

Q – What is the timescale for bidding?

A – The closing date for the submission of Trailblazer applications is now 29 January 2010. If members have not formally signed off your application by that date please let us know when that discussion is scheduled to take place.

Q – With regards to non-statutory housing-related support (Supporting People) what are you expecting to see included in the bids?

A – Supporting People is complex and covers a diverse set of clients and needs. We have identified long-term floating support to disabled people as the minimum to be included in the bids. However, we encourage all potential trailblazers to submit proposals for extending Right to Control to other elements of Supporting People delivered to disabled people.

Q – Will a joint bid to become a Trailblazer be stronger than a single bid?

A – We have no preference for different types of bid, although we think it is important to test a range of approaches. All bids must meet the legal and minimum requirements we have set out in the prospectus.

(If you had originally planned to be part of a joint bid but that option is no longer possible, we would encourage you to apply as a single authority.)

Q – Does the word limit on the application apply to joint bids?

A – A number of joint bidders have asked for additional space to set out their bids, which are inevitably more complex to explain. [We are

prepared to allow joint bidders to have an additional 1000 words for section 1 and 750 words for answers within section 2.]

Q – Can the Right to Control team comment on a draft bid?

A- No. It would not be fair or practicable for the team to comment on draft bids. However, we can respond to specific questions by phone or email, and will then reproduce these as FAQs. We are also running two workshops in early January (7 January in Manchester, 8 January in London) to provide support to Trailblazers (local authorities and Jobcentre Plus, plus partners) in developing bids, and Jobcentre Plus is arranging some additional support for staff.

Q- How will the funding be split between trailblazers?

A - The prospectus states that a maximum of £7 million is available for local authorities and Jobcentre Plus in the Trailblazers areas, this is over a two year period. We have not decided precisely how to split this money between Trailblazers as we want final decisions to be informed by the bids themselves, although we have said that we will reserve some limited flexibility to have fewer areas and give slightly more resources to joint bids if this provides the best overall ‘package’

Q – Is there any flexibility in people’s personal budget to use monies from different funding streams flexibly?

A – It has always been made clear, during the passage of the Bill through Parliament, that the monies from the funding streams must be spent on the outcomes those streams have been voted for in Parliament.

However, an outcome based approach should enable more innovative and flexible solutions (for example it may be appropriate to combine adult Social Care and Supporting People funding to employ a personal

assistant to deliver outcomes in relation to both personal care and housing related support). We would expect Trailblazers to enable people to spend funding in innovative ways to achieve their agreed outcomes. For example, Access to Work is paid under the Employment and Training Act (1973) to 'assist persons to select, train for, and retain employment', therefore we would expect funding to be used to achieve this outcome but we would not be prescriptive about how people could use the funding to achieve employment.

Q: How will Right to Control extend to Disabled Facilities Grants for tenants?

A – We have received a number of queries from local authorities about how the Right to Control can be extended to Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) particularly for tenants.

Firstly, we know that there are good examples of personalisation and flexibility being applied within DFG and Right to Control presents an opportunity to develop these approaches and apply them more widely.

We recognise there are specific challenges in extending the Right to Control to DFGs where the dwelling is rented, and have been working with Communities and Local Government on this.

Private Rented Sector

The landlord's consent is necessary for a private tenant to apply for a DFG and we intend to provide that the landlord's consent will also be necessary if an eligible person wishes to exercise the Right to Control.

Social tenants

In the case of social tenants, the best solution may be for an authority or housing association to move the tenant to a more appropriate property rather than make adaptations to an existing property. Where adaptations are the answer, then the tenant may apply for a DFG.

The Right to Control is a legal right, which is triggered once a disabled person is eligible for a relevant funding stream. So for someone to have the Right to Control over DFG, they must have made a DFG application and been deemed eligible (eg passed the means test etc). If a social tenant has not made an application and been assessed as eligible for DFG, but has simply discussed their needs with their landlord who has agreed to make the necessary adaptations (eg handrails, ramps), then the Right to Control would not apply.

We know that there are cases where adaptations for disabled people are undertaken by the landlord (whether RSL or local authority), without pursuing the formal DFG process. We are keen to hear innovative ways of including RSL and local authority customers, but would want bidders to focus on the delivery of the Right to Control to DFG applicants as the full legal Right to Control can only be triggered once a tenant has made an application and is deemed eligible for a DFG.

Direct payments

Right to Control provides for direct payment to the disabled person. In relation to tenanted property, if a tenant is eligible for a DFG, we propose to provide that a direct payment to the tenant could be made with the landlord's consent.