

Greater Manchester Older Peoples Reference Group and the Manchester Older Peoples Network: Thursday July 2

Personal Health Budgets

30 People Attended

In Attendance : Mary Duncan, Angela Hampson and Pauline Clark

Guest Speaker Carey Bamber: Joint Improvement Partnership.

Apologies : Edna Ashcroft, Vera Hirst, Elaine Unegbu, Alice Campbell and Pat Leahy, Sheelagh Peel, Kate Torkington, Pat Leahy.

Welcome and Introductions –Stuart Eyres

Stuart welcomed everyone to the meeting on one of the warmest days of the year! He introduced the guest speaker, Carey Bamber, who works for the Joint Improvement Partnership and Mary Duncan from MACC who gave brief background information about the Reference Group's programme of work on Personalisation.

Reference Group – Mary Duncan

The group have focussed on the Social Care Reforms since their launch in 2007. First known as Self-Directed Support and now Personalisation, the ideas are centred on individuals being in control; in the driving seat when their own care and support is being planned and delivered. As part of the Government Reforms members have also been involved in the national consultation on the future of funding social care, the findings of which will be published in the Government's much promoted and long awaited, Green Paper on Care and Support.

New members who need further background information on the Reforms should contact the MACC office.

The Reference group discussed the Government's proposals for Individual Health Budgets at their last meeting but the discussion was based on information available from the Department of Health only. The meeting

therefore welcomed the opportunity to discuss the development of personal health budgets in more depth, with Carey.

Personal Health Budgets –Carey Bamber

Carey began by explaining about the North West Joint Improvement Partnership, developed to drive improvements across the boundaries of health and social care. Her role is to lead on Personalisation; to develop choice control and citizenship for individual service users.

A copy of Carey's presentation is included for those who were unable to attend the meeting and there is an electronic version on its way to groups.

A summary of her presentation:

In terms of public sector policy, Personalisation is nothing new and it is not just about social care. It is also fair to say that the Disability movement in particular and the Voluntary & Community Sector in general, have been driving the idea of 'person centred care' for a long time-starting with the person's needs rather than the available services. There is no legislation to support the health payments, but this will be addressed in the Health Bill.

With Personal Health Budgets (PHB), there are six core principles:

- Upholding NHS values
- Quality is key
- Tackling inequalities and protecting equality
- PHB are voluntary
- Decision making will be close to the individual
- Partnership

At present anyone from any patient group could be offered a PHB, but their needs must be quantifiable and a budget can be set (as with individual budgets in social care). There needs to be agreed health and well-being outcomes for the patient and the services need to be appropriate to meet those outcomes.

Again, as with Individual Budgets, there will be pilot sites for implementing PHBs. (In Greater Manchester provisional approval for the pilots has been given to Wigan, Leigh & Ashton, Manchester, and Rochdale, Heywood & Middleton and Oldham)

The Department of Health is currently looking for an evaluation team who will report at regular intervals on:

- Health, well-being, experience and access.

- Variation by condition and background
- Financial impact
- Effect on NHS services
- What works, what does not?
- And the impact on staff

There will be support for the sites to become 'learning communities', from the Putting People First Team and the Policy Team. There is a lot of support for the Budgets from organisations like The Alzheimer's Society.

For further information visit:

www.personalisation.org.uk

www.in-control.org.uk

www.supportplanning.org

We have problems with the MACC website at the moment, but hopefully, this will be resolved soon and we will keep you updated on PHB!

The Debate.

This will be a real challenge for the NHS, a cultural shift from a service based on experts and skills to improving personal control by giving more control to the patients. Personal Health Budgets will not be means tested, unlike social care.

'The real gains for everyone will be when the health and social elements of a personalised budget are aligned for an individual so that integrated services can be commissioned and procured' (*identified and purchased.*)
 – delivering care in a seamless way ref: NHS Confederation

Members felt that the social care divide was 'a complete nonsense' and IBs and PHBs may force the Government to address the issue.

From the previous meeting, members had agreed that there were two main issues they would give priority to:

- With the merging of social and health care agendas, where one is means tested and the other is free at the point of delivery, if we don't have integrated budgets, how will it work? We will continue to debate 'what is health and what is social care'?

There was agreement at the meeting that Adult Social Care and the Primary Health Trusts needed to improve joint working to make Personalisation a success.

It was felt that more work was being done jointly now than before, but this depended on your area and locality.

- There were also serious concerns about a ‘free at the point of delivery’ health service introducing what effectively will be a Direct Payment. The NHS could deny further treatment to a patient who has ‘spent’ their entitlement, though Carey made it clear in her presentation that the PHBs will not be spent on emergency care or primary medical services.

Carey also made the point that PHBs will follow the same principles as the NHS as set out in the Constitution. What is changing is the way the services are delivered. She agreed with members that there is a significant amount of work to be done around older people and their experiences of Personalisation.

- A member asked how long the budgets would be allocated for and what would happen if your circumstances changed during the service plan?

The individual plans would have to be flexible to take into account fluctuating conditions – they would be reviewed. Further questions were raised about the funding of the pilots and the schemes, at a time when we expect severe cuts in public services.

The Chair thanked Carey for her clear and informative presentation and her support and clarity in leading on the first part of the debate. Unfortunately she had to leave at this point for another appointment.

There was further discussion on the importance of independent brokerage and advocacy services being available as a way of safeguarding individuals using personalised budgets. References were made to the difficulties had by Primary Care and Adult Social Care, shifting money from the acute sector (hospitals) into preventative services, as evidence emerged from the POPP’s programmes of work. We know there is no new money for investment.

A member reminded the meeting of a quote from Ivan Lewis when he was Minister for State for Social Care, when he said that he envisaged people getting their healthcare in exactly the same way as they would buy a tin of peas from ASDA!

There are obviously considerable benefits from Personalisation and the introduction of PHBs as part of the reforms, as well as concerns that need to be addressed through the Pilot sites. There are lessons to be learnt from the experiences of older people using Individual Budgets and it was clear from the discussion that older people’s networks and groups need to keep the

experiences and expertise of older people on the agenda as the PHB Pilot sites develop the work.

AOB

The next open meeting will be on the Green Paper on the future funding of Adult Social Care. We need to get older people themselves discussing the options, if and when it is published!

As you will now know, the Green Paper was finally published today, July 14th.

Stuart thanked everyone for coming and contributing to the debate on one of the hottest days of the year, so far.

Mary Duncan 14.07.09

On behalf of the Greater Manchester Older Peoples Reference Group