



Department
of Health &
Social Care

NHS

England

The right to have a personal health budget or an integrated personal budget

What people said



This is an Easy Read version of: 'A consultation on extending legal rights to have a personal health budget and integrated personal budget: Department of Health and Social Care and NHS England response'.



What is in this booklet

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What the words mean – some words are in **blue** - they are explained at the end of this booklet

About this booklet



The Government plan and pay for health and **social care** services in England.



We asked people for their ideas about the **right to personal health budgets** and **integrated personal budgets**. We had answers from 402 people and organisations.



This booklet explains what people said in their answers.



Personal health budgets and **personal budgets** for **social care** are ways for people to have more choice and control over their care.

A person (or an organisation they choose) is given money to buy their own care and support.



Personal health budgets and **personal budgets** for **social care** can be joined together. This is called an **integrated personal budget**.

The right to have an integrated personal budget



We asked if certain people should have the right to an **integrated personal budget**?



Most people said yes.



People said:

- It would help them to use services
- It would help them to stay healthy and keep them out of hospitals



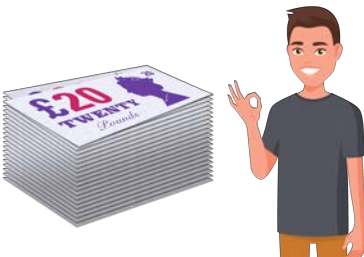
People who did not agree said:

- The money might not be used properly
- There might be less money
- Having budgets together might not work



What we say:

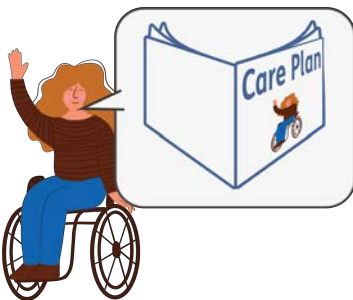
- We will check after three months to make sure the money is helping people in the best way



- People will not have less money



- Changes will take time and should be planned properly



- People should have a say in their own care plan about their own care

The right to have a direct payment



We asked if people should have the right to take an **integrated personal budget** as a **direct payment**?



Most people said yes.



People said:

- **Direct payments** give people more control
- People would get the right services and more choice



People who did not agree said:

- There may not be enough support for people
- Budgets might not be used properly
- It will cause more work



What we say:

- We will offer people enough support to manage their **direct payments**



- The NHS will need to check budgets are being used properly



- Staff will get training to help set-up and run **personal health budgets**

People who use mental health services



Some people who have been kept in hospital under the Mental Health Act can get free help and support after they leave hospital.



We asked if these people should have the right to a **personal health budget** or **integrated personal budget**?



Most people said yes.

People said:

- They would get better treatment
- Their needs would be met in a better way
- They would be more involved in their support



People who did not agree said:

- People may not get enough support to manage the budget





What we say:

- We will make sure people get the support and information they need



- We need to remember that people's mental health condition can change. Sometimes people may need more support



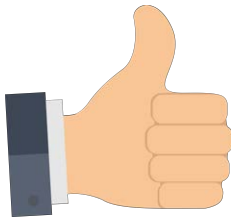
- We need to find out what services people need



- People will need to have an **assessment** before deciding if it is best for them to have a **personal health budget**



We asked if adults, children and young people who are using mental health services in the community for a long time, should have the right to a **personal health budget** or **integrated personal budget**?



Most people said yes.

People said:



- People will be able to get the support they need
- It could help young people and older people
- It will help people be independent and make choices

People who did not agree said:



- People may not get the support they need
- Young people may need more support
- Information would be needed about **advocacy**
- How will people stay safe?



What we say:

- We will give people the right information and support



- We will make sure the support is right for the person's age



- We will check that support and budgets are right, fair and safe



- Keeping people safe is really important. People should speak to their staff team if they are worried about anything



- There is already some information online about [personal health budgets](#). We will be putting more information online soon



We asked how long people should have services in the community?



People gave different answers for this question.

Most people said:

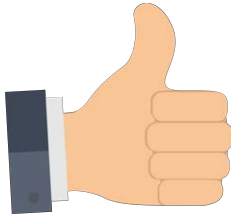
- One year, or
- It depends on the person



We are thinking about what to do next.



We asked if people who have a **personal health budget** for their mental health should be able to get a **direct payment**?



Most people said yes.

People said:

- People will have more choice
- People's needs will be put first
- People will have a say and get more involved in their treatment
- It will be really helpful to people



People who did not agree said:

- People may not be able to manage a **personal health budget** without support
- There might be more work for workers and carers
- There may be less care because of a lack of services





What we say:

- We will give people enough information and support



- We will train people to set-up and run the **personal health budgets**



- If people feel their services aren't better with a **personal health budget**, they can change back to how things were before



- We believe **direct payments** will give people more control and confidence

People who have been in the armed forces



We asked if people who leave the **armed forces** and need NHS care for a long time should have the right to a **personal health budget**?



Most people said yes.



People said:

- People will have more independence and control
- They will get the care they need

People who did not agree said:

- **Personal health budgets** should not be given to people just because they have been in the **armed forces**
- These people already get support from the **armed forces**





What we say:

- Personal health budgets could give them more choice and control



- Giving people a personal health budget is about putting the person first



- We will give advice on how the personal health budgets are to be used



- The budgets will be for people using NHS services



We asked if people who leave the **armed forces** and have a **personal health budget** should have the right to take it as a **direct payment**?



Most people said yes.



People said:

- They would have more control and choice



People who did not agree said:

- They are worried about there not being enough support to help manage the **personal health budget**
- People need to understand the responsibilities that come with managing a budget
- People may not have a choice
- People may not be able to change their mind about **direct payments**



What we say:



- Support will be given to everyone who has a **personal health budget** via a **direct payment**



- People will get regular reviews of their care



- People should always have a choice about **direct payments**



- People should be able to change their mind about **direct payments**

People with a learning disability or autism



We asked if people with a learning disability, autism or both who already have a package of care should have the right to an **integrated personal budget**?



Most people said yes.



People said:

- It will be helpful to this group of people
- Putting the two budgets together will be more effective for people



People who did not agree said:

- It is not clear who could do this
- This may be hard for people to manage
- This may give more work to carers



What we say:

- We will give people the information, advice and support they need



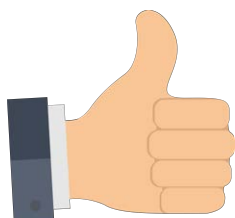
- There will be information on local NHS websites



- People will need an **assessment** to make sure their needs are met in the best way



We asked if people with a learning disability or autism who need more care and support should have the right to a **personal health budget** or **integrated personal budget** for their health needs?



Most people said yes.



People said:

- This would be very helpful to people



People who did not agree said:

- There must be enough support to help people manage their budget

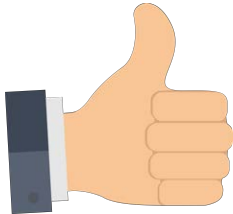
What we say:

- We must make sure people have the information, advice and support they need to manage their budget
- The NHS should decide if people can have a **personal health budget**
- The NHS will explain how they decide who can have a **personal health budget**





We asked if people with a learning disability or autism should have the right to take their **personal health budget** or **integrated personal budget** as a **direct payment**?



Most people said yes.



People said:

- People's needs should be put first



People who did not agree said:

- They were worried about people not getting enough support to manage their **direct payment**
- The money could be spent on the wrong things



What we say:

- The local NHS will plan how they arrange **personal health budgets** for different groups of people



- The local NHS will talk to people about what they need and how to support them

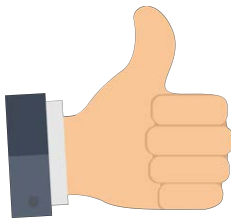


- The NHS will make plans that make sure people are safe and **direct payments** do not get used for the wrong things

People who use wheelchair services



We asked if people who need a wheelchair have the right to a **personal health budget** or **integrated personal budget**?



Most people said yes.



People said:

- People can get the equipment they need

People who did not agree said:

- They are worried people would get lower quality care
- It may be difficult to own a wheelchair
- How will we make sure that any wheelchairs that are bought are safe?





What we say:

- There will still be an **assessment** of need and support plans. This will help to stop people getting lower quality care



- People will get more choice of equipment through these changes



- Issues about owning a wheelchair can be agreed during care and support planning



We asked if people should have the right to get their wheelchair budget as a **direct payment**?



Most people said yes.

People said:

- This will help improve people's quality of life



People who did not agree said:

- People will need support to make sure the budget is spent in the best way
- People were worried that less money would be given
- There may be a lower quality of care



What we say:

- It will work better than what we do at the moment
- People will need the right advice, information and support
- People will not get less money
- People will have more choice about how to spend the money



Other groups



We asked if any other groups of people should have the right to a **personal health budget** or **integrated personal budget**?

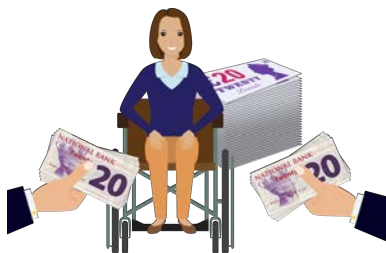
People suggested:

- Children with extra needs
- People who need end of life care
- People who have **Alzheimers** or **dementia**
- Carers
- People who need community equipment that help with daily living like wheelchairs
- People who have **Multiple Sclerosis**



We will look into this more and decide in the future.

Including money from other places in an integrated personal budget



We asked if other money for health and **social care** should go into a person's **integrated personal budget**?



Most people said yes.



People said this could make it easier for the person.



We will continue to look into this and let people know in the future.

People with complicated long-term health needs



We asked if people with complicated long-term health needs who live at home should be able to get their **personal health budget** as a **direct payment**?



Most people said yes.



People said:

- **Direct payments** can give people more choice and control over their services
- It will help improve quality



People who did not agree said:

- Would people be able to manage?
- The money might be used in the wrong way



What we say:

- People will be given information, advice and support
- We will have to check money is being spent properly

Treating everyone fairly



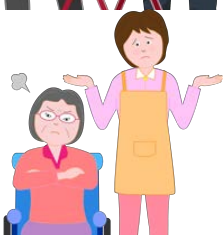
We asked people if our plans were fair to everyone?

Most people said the plans would not change how people are treated.



People said:

- We must make sure people have the support they need



People who did not agree said:

- They were worried that carers may end up having more work



- People who are rich could put the **personal health budget** with their own money. This would not be fair



- It might not be fair if older people cannot use technology such as computers



What we say:

- We do not think this will mean carers have more work



- We want carers to have a say on how services are run



- Rich people will not be better off. If you are wealthy you are not allowed to add your own money to a [personal health budget](#)



- People are given money when they need it



- Older people would be offered any support they need

What we will do next



We think that **personal health budgets** and **integrated personal budgets** will help people to have the care and support they need.



We want over 200,000 people to have a **personal health budget** or **integrated personal budget** by 2024.



We want health services to:

- Give people the right wheelchairs for them
- Give people the right care and support in the community

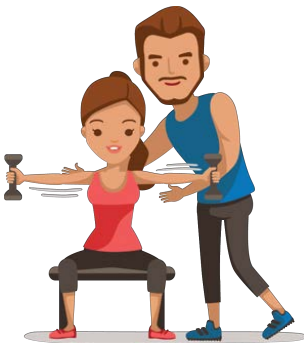




- Give more services to:
 - People with mental health issues
 - People with a learning disability
 - People receiving [social care](#)
 - People at the end of their lives



We want to talk to other groups who may be able to use a [personal health budget](#).



We are going to give people more support through [social prescribing](#).



We want to use more technology to help meet people's care needs better.



Following the results of the consultation

- We will now make new laws for 2 of the groups we have talked about:
 - Those people who have been kept in hospital under the Mental Health Act and are entitled to free help and support after they leave hospital, and
 - People who use wheelchair services
- We will continue to look at all the other groups and decide in the future
- We will keep talking to people and other organisations about what they think should happen.



What the words mean



Advocacy

Advocacy is where people can speak up for you or say something on your behalf.



Alzheimers and dementia

Alzheimers is a type of dementia. Dementia is a condition that affects people's memory, thinking and behaviour.



After care

This is help the law says people should have for their mental health in the community when they leave hospital.



Armed forces

The army, navy or air force.



Assessment

Finding out what care or support people need.



Direct payment

If someone chooses to take a personal budget as a direct payment, they manage the money and buy the support they need.



Integrated personal budget

Integrated means joined together. An integrated personal budget is when a personal budget for social care and personal health budget is joined together.



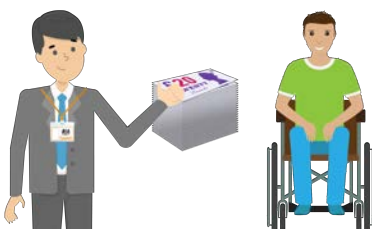
Mental Health Act 1983

A law that protects people with mental ill health and makes sure they get their rights.



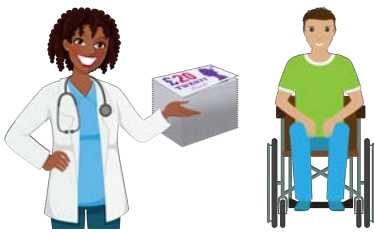
Multiple Sclerosis

Multiple Sclerosis or MS is a condition that affects the brain and spinal chord.



Personal budget

A personal budget is an agreed amount of money that is allocated to you by your local council to pay for your care



Personal health budget

A personal health budget is an agreed amount of money to support your health and wellbeing needs. It is planned between you, and your local NHS team.



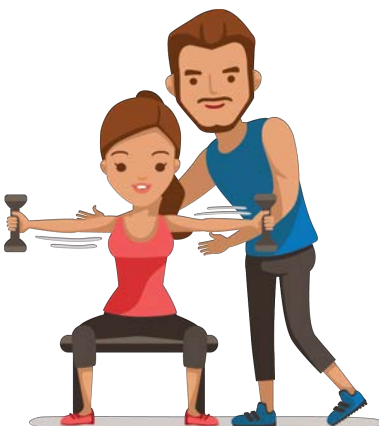
Rights

Something that should happen for everyone if they choose it.



Social care

Support with daily living and being independent. For example, with washing, dressing, shopping or seeing friends.



Social prescribing

This is telling people about services in the community that may help them.