



1. Transforming Social Care: iMPOWER summary

This document summarises LAC (DH) (2008) 1, dated 17 January 2008, from iMPOWER Consulting's perspective.

In summary, the circular specifies a broad range of outcomes for which the new grant should be used to deliver; it places personal budgets at the heart of this, and places a huge onus on local authorities to shape and deliver their programmes locally. The timescale is 3 years, with outcomes to be delivered by 2011.

Key points

1. 'Personal budgets' are placed at the heart of the transformation agenda for social care. The document draws the thread of reform from the green paper of 2005 to today and makes the case that personalisation is now a 'cornerstone of the modernisation of public services'.
2. Delivering personalisation within social care requires "whole system change", not change at the margins. The implication is that pilots are not enough – councils need now to understand how the whole social care system will be affected by placing personal budgets at the heart of their modernisation programmes.
3. Very significant resources are being committed to this change programme. The vast majority of the money is being delivered directly to local authorities, with only a small residual amount being kept at the centre for further development of toolkits and technologies.
4. This implies three things: a large degree of local freedom, but at the same time, clear local responsibility for planning and delivery, and accountability for using the money in the right way.
5. There is significant reference to the importance of partners – both health, and other local agencies – and the requirement to engage with them and use them to help deliver the changes. The implication is that this reform programme must align with and drive broader place-shaping, LAA and CAA priorities.

Practicalities

6. The specified outcomes are relatively broad, with a range of areas highlighted; broadly these fall under personalisation, prevention and early intervention. Delivery of personal budgets for everyone eligible for statutory support is specifically mentioned. 'By 2011....most of' the outcomes should have been delivered. There is a claw back mechanism specified if the 'grant monies are not used for the purposes for which they





are given....in Appendix B'. The monies appear to be granted without any requirement to bid or apply for the funds.

- 7. The exact pattern of local and national support for local authorities is not yet defined, but the main focus will be at local and regional level. There is a reference to a national 'rapid call-off framework' for accredited consultancies, but no specific timetable for this. The roles of CSIP and CSED are not explicitly mentioned, but the implication is that these will shift.
- 8. The money committed is for 3 years, but the grant determination letter only refers specifically to the 2008-9 settlement. The money will be delivered to authorities by the end of April 2008. There remains a possibility therefore that the DH will place additional on more specific requirements on the grants for 2009-10 and 2010-11, but this is not indicated at this stage.

Next steps

- 9. Next steps will be determined by what stage you are in the decision making process. The process we have developed with Care Services Improvement Partnership is reflected in the diagram below.

A staged approach to SDS

