



| Case Study | |
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| Client: | Department for Children, Schools and Families |
| Project: | Individual Budgets Pilot for Disabled Children and Families |
| Client situation: | <p>The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has launched a two year pilot scheme to test the effectiveness of Individual Budgets for disabled children and their families. This case study is written as the pilot programme reaches the end of its first year.</p> <p>iMPOWER, as part of a consortium with SQW Consulting and Helen Sanderson Associates, has undertaken a 'support and challenge' role as part of the pilots. Our work splits into two distinct phases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Support on implementation planning to ensure sites have robust plans in place to develop and deliver their offering, and transferring our project implementation expertise to create agency in the teams; and ➔ Challenge and knowledge sharing, including providing additional help to those sites who were falling behind schedule and organising workshops where pilot sites can share issues and innovations in an open source environment. |
| Outcomes: | <p>iMPOWER's involvement in the pilot has added value to the development of the pilots in a number of ways. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Providing support to help the sites think through their implementation plans. The sites presented a mix of experience in this area and in two particular cases our support enabled these sites to turn initially weak first drafts into structured and detailed plans. ➔ Developing a forum to share knowledge. We recognised at an early stage that the best use of our time was to facilitate conversations between the sites, and this led to setting up the ongoing series of workshops. As the workshops have taken place we have adapted them to ensure that the content is always relevant to the issues that are facing the sites, and use external speakers to challenge and inspire the sites. ➔ Providing extra support where it is required to help sites get up to speed if they have fallen behind. The additional one-to-one support allows us to focus on specific issues and address these. <p>Our support and challenge to the sites created a number of benefits to DCSF. These included ensuring that the pilots were able to launch effectively with each site signing up enough families, providing a level of challenge to encourage innovation in the pilots, and building a sense of community through the workshops which enabled and encouraged knowledge sharing.</p> |