Fact Sheet -5

Planning for a Personal Budget

When it is known how much a child or young person’s allocated amount will be, you can begin to develop and put together a support plan.

How does Planning work?

A support plan describes what a child or young person wants to change about their life and how they will use their Personal Budget to make these changes happen.

The support plan shows how the money is going to be used and how other available resources can help keep the individual healthy and safe. It will show how they can be supported to achieve clear, measurable, agreed outcomes, in line with the child’s identified needs through Education, Health or Social Care.

For a Social Care Budget you might begin by setting out a draft support plan with the child and family or young person, discussing opportunities and making best use of what is available locally, looking to the ‘Local Offer’ along with any additional allocation of a personal budget.

All plans are unique and individual

Plans can take many different formats:-

- They can be written on paper or a wall plan.
- They can take the form of a DVD or video/slideshow presentation where you show how you will use money and resources.

A Support Plan will show how you will get the help your child needs or the young person to enhance their life in the community. The Plan will need to show how the support identified will meet clear outcomes for the child or young person, in line with their assessment, ensuring the child or young person’s health, wellbeing and safety are maintained at all times.

This can include support from their family and friends, community organisations, faith organisations and school, as well as formal paid sources of support.
Who can help with my child or a young person’s Support Plan?

- You could ask your Social Care worker to help you
- A member of the Health Team could help you to develop your Support Plan
- You could ask a friend, carer or relative to help you
- You could ask a Support Broker to help you
- You could do it yourself using information about Support Plans which is available on the Internet

What must be included in a Plan:-

- How the money will be spent to meet the individual’s needs throughout the whole year including holidays.
- How the individual will be supported to stay healthy and safe while promoting independence
- How support will be organised and who will provide it
- How will the individual be supported now and in the future
- Who will be providing support from the individual’s extended family or their community
- How the budget will be managed/costing of all services, equipment or activities.
- How records of expenditure will be managed
- How, and by whom, will the individual be supported by in order to achieve the desired outcomes?
- Contingency money for unforeseen circumstances such as training re-recruitment etc. In the case of a Health Budget all training must be costed.

In the case of a Health Plan there needs to be a list of the child or young person’s health needs and a full description of how care provision is to be delivered. It is essential that all care givers or providers are checked through the Disclosure Barring Service and paid carers cannot be close members of the family. There is contingency in Health Budgets but this would be subject to a re-assessment and all training requirements must be costed.

Useful Links:-

http://www.in-control.org.uk/support/support-for-individuals,-family-members-carers/seven-steps-to-being-in-control.aspx

http://www.helensandersonassociates.co.uk/