

‘Personalisation’ and choice in social care

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Background

- ◆ 1997 direct payments
- ◆ In Control
- ◆ 2005 *Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People*
- ◆ 13 Individual Budget pilots – 2005-7
- ◆ December 2007 *Putting People First*
commitment to personal budgets in social care

Direct payments ... individual budgets ... personal budgets ... what's the difference?

- ◆ Direct payments
 - ◆ traditional assessment; convert 'hours' of care into £; typically used to employ personal assistant
- ◆ Individual budgets
 - ◆ multiple funding streams (AtW, ILF, ICES, DFGs, SP); transparency; (?entitlement); deployment options; flexible use
- ◆ Personal budgets
 - ◆ social care only; transparency; (?entitlement); deployment options; flexible use

Why choice in social care?

Choice and control fundamental to ...

- ◆ Citizenship
- ◆ Independence
- ◆ Redressing power inequalities
- ◆ As outcome of social care
- ◆ As vehicle for remaking citizenship (Demos)

But ... conditions for exercising choice and control

- ◆ Stability/certainty
- ◆ Information, brokerage
 - ◆ 'information asymmetry'
- ◆ Awareness of options
- ◆ Supply
 - ◆ purchasing leverage
 - ◆ specialist needs
 - ◆ opportunities for 'exit'

Other risks and challenges

- ◆ Legal constraints
- ◆ Cultural constraints
 - ◆ Professionals
 - ◆ Users
- ◆ Choice not to choose
- ◆ Transferring risk to users
- ◆ Impact on carers
 - ◆ New management tasks
 - ◆ New obligations
- ◆ Risks to equity
 - ◆ Information/access
 - ◆ Transparency

Social care – already privatised?

- ◆ Rising eligibility thresholds
 - ◆ substantial/critical needs only
- ◆ Assets test for residential care
 - ◆ 118,000 fund own care home place
- ◆ Charges for community services
 - ◆ 1 in 4 pay means tested charges
- ◆ ‘Topping up’ LA-funded care
 - ◆ 1 in 4 ‘top up’ insufficient local authority care
- ◆ ‘Self-funders’ – ineligible/choose not to use LA care
 - ◆ 150,000 older people

About half total spending on personal social care for older people comes from private contributions – total £5.9bn

Unpaid care from carers valued at £87bn a year – more than total cost of NHS