



**Individual Budgets**  
Your Life – Your Choice

# **A Brief Guide to Individual Budgets in Kensington and Chelsea**



# What Are Individual Budgets?

The Government has asked The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea to take part in a pilot project to radically improve the amount of choice and control users and carers have in the way their needs are met. Pilot sites will be offering people a personal or Individual Budget based on a simple assessment of their needs.

## Is the Pilot happening everywhere?

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea is one of only thirteen sites nationally to be piloting Individual Budgets and the only Borough to be doing so in Central London. We are excited to have this opportunity to further improve our services to local disabled people and their carers.

## What's different about Individual Budgets?

Individual Budgets offer a whole new way of supporting people who need social care that puts you at the centre of the process – helping you work out what you need, supporting you to plan how you want to meet your needs and to review what works best for you.

At its heart is the recognition that you are the person best placed to understand your needs and a commitment from Social Services to support you to take as much control as you want.

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Programme

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## How do Individual Budgets Work?

Firstly, you will be involved in the assessment of your needs and told upfront how much money you are entitled to for the year.

Secondly, we will help you to draw up a support plan – you can do this by yourself or with the help of family, friends, a social worker, or an independent support broker– to show how you intend to spend the money to meet your needs. We encourage you to be creative!

Thirdly, you live your life – with the services you have chosen that fit your needs and your lifestyle.

## Will there be a lot of paperwork?

No! We recommend people to keep invoices and receipts and we will ask you to fill in a simple form no more than every six months. That's it! There will be help available if you need it, to ensure that your budget is working as hard as possible for you and that your needs are being met. There will also be regular reviews where your social worker can help you to ensure that things are working for you.

## Who can apply for an Individual Budget?

Between now and the end of June 2007, all pilot sites have been asked to randomly select people to take part in the programme. Some people will be offered an individual budget straight away and others will be asked to share their experience with us about the services they use at the moment. The most anyone will have to wait for an Individual Budget is six months. Everyone who agrees to take part in the research programme will be offered a £15 Marks and Spencer Voucher as a token of our appreciation for your support.

# If I have an Individual Budget, what happens after the pilot ends?

Ministers have said they want all Local Authorities to offer Individual Budgets in the future and we are confident that people receiving Individual Budgets will be able to continue with them if they choose to. Remember, if you are not happy you can always switch back to your previous arrangements.

# How can I find out more information or express my interest?

You can find out more about Individual Budgets by contacting:

**Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Individual Budgets Team**, on 020 7361 2874  
Email [IndividualBudgets@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:IndividualBudgets@rbkc.gov.uk) .

**Action Disability Kensington and Chelsea Independent Support Broker** on 020 8960 8888  
Email [ibsupport@adkc.org.uk](mailto:ibsupport@adkc.org.uk).

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