



An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health



Personalised Budgets Task Force Report on Disability Services



This is an Easy to Read summary of
the Task Force for disability services



What is this report about?



The Task Force on Personalised Budgets did a report on their work.

This is an easy to read summary of the report.

This report will:



- talk about the Task Force on Personalised Budgets



- explain the work the Task Force has done



- say what the Task Force thinks should be done to bring in personalised budgets in Ireland



The Minister, Mr. Finian McGrath, says:



The Government wants to support people with disabilities to live independent lives in the community.



We want people with disabilities to make their own choices and decisions.



Transforming Lives is a programme to help us do this.



It was important that service users, people with disabilities, and their families were on the Task Force.



The Task Force held a public consultation to make sure everyone could have their say on personalised budgets.



They looked at research on personalised budgets in Ireland and in other parts of the world.



All this information means we have a good plan for moving forward with personalised budgets.



I want to thank the Task Force for their work on this report.



I would like to thank their Chairperson, Christy Lynch.



I would also like to praise the work of the Advisory & Consultative Group, chaired by Siobhan Barron.



The members of these groups made sure that the person is at the centre of every decision and that the independence and choice of each individual is respected.



I would like to pay tribute to Martin Naughton who was chosen for the Task Force but sadly passed away before he could take part.



Martin was a great advocate for people with a disability and campaigned for personalised budgets for many years.



I fully support this report.
I was delighted to present it to the Government.



Now, we need to make progress on the actions so we can move personalised budgets forward.



Introduction



People with disabilities in lots of different countries are using personalised budgets.



A personalised budget is funding that people with disabilities can get from the Government.

This funding pays for the care or support the person needs.



A personalised budget can give a person more choice and control over their services and supports.



People with disabilities can choose to get a personalised budget or not.



The Minister for Disabilities, Finian McGrath, set up the Task Force on Personalised Budgets in September 2016.



Who is on the Task Force?



The Task Force is made up of 2 groups:



- The Strategy Group



- The Advisory Group



A Reference Group of people who live with a disability was also set up. This Group told the Task Force what they thought about personalised budgets.



Vision of the Task Force



A vision is an idea for the future.



The vision of the Task Force is that personalised budgets will support people with disabilities to:



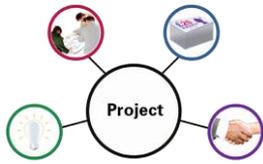
- Have choice and control over their lives



- Have choice and control over the supports they get



- Be independent and to take part in their community



What work did the Task Force do?



The Task Force did different pieces of work to find the best ways to bring in personalised budgets in Ireland.



They looked at how personalised budgets work in other countries.



They looked at the costs of personalised budgets in other countries.



They collected information about people using personalised budgets in Ireland.



The Task Force asked people in Ireland what they thought about personalised budgets.



What did the Task Force say?

These pages explain the recommendations that the Task Force made.



A personalised budget can be used to support a person with everyday life.

This might mean support to take part in the community or home care support.



A personalised budget cannot be spent on:



- general living expenses. These are things like bills, food and drink, mortgage or rent and insurance



- services given by other Government Departments or agencies



How can a person get a personalised budget?



Personalised budgets can be given to a person in 3 different ways:



1. The person can manage it themselves. This is called a self-managed fund.

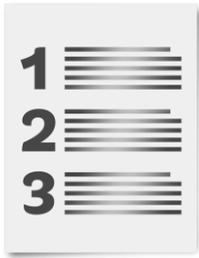


2. The person can manage their personalised budget together with the HSE or a disability service.



3. The person can ask a person called a broker to manage their budget for them.

A broker gives the person the information, support and help they need to plan their services and supports.



Steps to get a personalised budget



The Task Force said that someone getting a personalised budget should follow certain steps.



An assessment of the person's needs should happen first. Then, there are five main stages:



1. Information on Supports

The person will get information about how a personalised budget would work for them.

This would help them decide if they want a personalised budget or not.

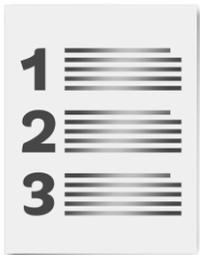


2. Application

The person would apply to get a personalised budget.

They can work with a person called an assessing practitioner to do this.





Steps to get a personalised budget



3. Support and Planning

The person and the assessing practitioner will agree their personalised budget support plan.

The person will be told the different ways that a personalised budget can be paid and what it can be spent on.



4. Using the personalised budget

The person will decide how they would like their personalised budget to be paid.

5. Checking how it's working

This is called the 'review' stage.

The person doing the review would check:

- how the person feels their budget is working
- how the money is being spent
- if the budget is supporting the person to achieve their goals



After the review, the personalised budget might be changed to better suit the person's needs.



Supports for people getting personalised budgets



There will be a spending plan for the person.
This will say how they can meet their support needs with their personalised budget.



The spending plan will look at what other supports people have.
This might be from family or from other services.



Training will be available to support people to understand and manage their personalised budget.



Testing out personalised budgets



The Task Force will do some projects to find the best ways for personalised budgets to work in Ireland.

The projects will look at things like:



The cost of personalised budgets



How to manage support staff



How to make sure the person is getting good quality support



The best ways to manage personalised budgets



Testing out personalised budgets



It will take two years to test personalised budgets around Ireland.



Information from the projects will be used to:

- write a report for the Department of Health



- write guidelines on the best ways to start using personalised budgets in Ireland



The Department of Health will look at the report and will talk to the Government.

They will say what needs to happen next to make personalised budgets available in Ireland.



Other recommendations from the Task Force



The Department of Health will decide if the law needs to change to make a personalised budget work.



The Task Force thinks that the information from the projects should be shared with other government departments.



The Department of Health should talk about personalised budgets as part of the work on the National Disability Inclusion Strategy.

Notes

Notes

Notes



This Easy to Read Report was put together by the Department of Health with the help of ACE Communication.



communicating together

Experts by Experience helped to put this Report together.