

PB Flash

Jan 15

Your ideas, experiences, knowledge and skills are needed!



We all know that the best people to advise and support people about a particular matter are people who have been in the same situation – this is exactly the same for people who are looking for support around care services and Personal Budgets. We want to hear from you if you are good at:

ORGANISING **Representing** **Explaining** **Creative writing** **Art**

Supporting **Translating** **ENCOURAGING** **Planning** **Coordinating**

Networking **Chairing** **teaching** **Designing** **Researching** **Editing**

LIAISING **promoting** **Linking-up** **Videoing** **researching**

Members are needed to participate in the following PB / Care related projects:

- **Personal Budget video** – firstly brainstorming ideas for how we should do a short video about Personal Budgets. Then making the video! **Ideal for people who have good ideas and who are creative etc.** P.S -you don't have to be in the video if you would prefer not to – but volunteers needed for this too!
- **Personal Budget event** – coming up with ideas about how to put on an event full of relevant advice and info. **Ideal for people who are good at planning, organising, networking co-ordinating and promoting!**
- **Information hub** – getting information together / creating fact sheets for people about topics relating to Personal Budgets. **Ideal for people who are good at collecting information, doing research, writing and editing etc.**
- **Promotions group** – help us at stalls at community events or giving talks to community groups – great if you are a people person!

If you want to know more about these projects / discuss how you can be further involved – contact Jenny at the details below.

Questions from our members:

I have someone who provides support to me – they want to move to a new job and want a reference – who is supposed to give that reference?

Answer

At ADKC we have, on a number of occasions, received reference requests from people who worked as Personal Assistant for people who use the ADKC Personal Budget support service. It seems that they think that they have been employed by ADKC when they haven't. We then have to say to the potential new employee that the person never worked for us... damaging their chances of getting the job they applied for!



So who is supposed to provide the reference? See the following situations.

I use a care agency that sends in care workers: In this case the AGENCY is the employer – even if you are the only person that the care worker works for and they have no other clients! If the worker wants to get a reference, they should give the new employer details of the AGENCY that they worked for (though the AGENCY might ask you how good the worker was!)

Someone was working for me privately as a Personal Assistant (I found them and gave them a contract): In this case YOU are the employer – even if the Council or ADKC has helped you with things like provided contracts and job descriptions! If the Personal Assistant changes jobs they might ask to give YOUR details to their new employer for a reference. **Please make sure that the Personal Assistant understands that they are NOT employed by ADKC, or by the Council.**

They are privately employed, but I am not the employer: If you are under 18, or you don't have "capacity" – for example due to a severe mental illness / learning disability or dementia – a **family member or other person** might be acting as the employer on your behalf. (Check who signed the employee's contract). In this case, they would provide the reference, not you, but you might have a say in what they write!

Do you have a burning question? If so, drop us a line!

Independent Living Fund – closure in June 2015, update.



I have been keeping you updated about the fight to keep the Independent Living Fund open. Unfortunately the most recent court case was lost. The most disappointing thing was that the judge agreed that the Minister for Disabled people (at the time, Mike Penning) had all the information about how this would negatively affect people who currently had ILF funding – yet he still decided to make the decision to close the ILF. Disabled people will fight on!



Meeting for ILF recipients

From 1st July 2015 YOU will no longer get ILF money – it will be transferred to the Council instead so they can choose how to use it!

ADKC and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea



will hold a joint meeting about the ILF



(date/venue to be confirmed).

Come along to find out:

- What the Council plans to do with the money that YOU would have received.
- What changes this may mean for how you are supported
- What will happen between now and 30th June – during the transition stage.
- What will happen from 1st July when the ILF closes.
- What support the Council and/or ADKC can offer for people losing ILF funding.

If you are / your loved one is an ILF recipient and you want to attend – please get in touch so we can give you the relevant information. If you can't attend but have questions you want us to raise - or want copies of minutes- please also let us know.

Taking Control Project, Action Disability Kensington and Chelsea.
The ADKC Centre, Whitstable House, Silchester Road, London. W10 6SB
Phone: 020 8960 8888 or email: pbsupport@adkc.org.uk

Speaking with Confidence about Personal Budgets

The Personal Budget project's user groups are always a great opportunity for people who use Care and Support Services to get advice and support from others, as well as to give advice and support to others. I am always amazed by the wealth of knowledge, the experiences and the skills hints and tips that members share!

While people can often seem really confident within these groups, it is a different matter when people don't feel that they have support when having to deal with Social Services!

Our new "Speaking with Confidence about Personal Budgets" course will hopefully give / improve people's skills to:



- Share their own experiences with peers
- Get their message across when it comes to saying what they need to with Social Services
- Support others and represent other people's views
- Tell others, in a variety of settings, the basic details of personal budgets

Suggestion from a member

A member has suggested that it might be a good idea to compile people's feedback about positive, and not-so-positive, experiences that they have had during visits from a social worker. These experiences could then be feedback to social services (anonymously) or shared between members. **Would you be up for this?**

*Opinion
matters*

Date for your diary:

Weds 21st January from 11-1 at ADKC. Personal Budget User Group meeting/ Council Liaison Meeting. Guest speakers will be Emma Southwell and Jo Reeder about the new Direct Payments Champions and changes to how the council deal with Direct Payments. Guests will be here from 12.30-1 only.

Weds 4th February from 11-1. Our ever popular PB surgery.

No internet? Come to the ADKC free internet café Friday from 10-1.

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