



Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) response to the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) Position Statement of Personal Health Budgets

Background:

The Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) represents Directors of Adult Social Services in Local Authorities in England. As well as having statutory responsibilities for the commissioning and provision of social care, ADASS members often also share a number of responsibilities for the commissioning and provision of housing, leisure, library, culture, arts, community services and increasingly, Children's Social Care within their Local Authority.

Summary

ADASS welcomes the RCGPs' Position Statement on Personalised Health Budgets as a key document in taking forward the offer of personalisation and whilst ADASS also recognises some of the cautions expressed within the Position Statement, ADASS strongly supports the continued expansion of personalisation without undue delay as a critical dimension in the reforms of health and social care. Further, as part of this support, ADASS offers the opportunity to work closely with the college, drawing upon ADASS extensive experience and expertise in driving personalisation within public services and working towards greater integration in both commissioning and at the front-line of delivery.

Both integration and personalisation are fundamental to these reforms, with personalisation opening up the creative space to allow individuals to take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing, and for health and social care to work closely together to make these opportunities a reality, emphasizing the focus upon early intervention and prevention.

ADASS notes that Personal Health Budgets must extend beyond the more traditional models of treatment and regulated services and move towards more flexible solutions to meeting individual needs and improved outcomes. A key part of improving outcomes will also to focus on what people will do for themselves to improve their health. This will require commissioners - GPs and Local Authorities – to work closely together through the Health and Wellbeing Boards to address more creative responses which in turn will have a positive impact upon pressure with the NHS Acute Sector and importantly upon individual lives and experience.

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