

## TRANSFORMING ADULT SOCIAL CARE

The government is asking all local authorities to transform the way they deliver adult social care by personalising services to put people at the centre of how their care and support needs are identified and met.

This agenda, called 'Putting People First', aims to improve the outcomes for people who use adult social care services and their carers by providing them with opportunities to take control and make choices on how best their support can be delivered and where they choose to manage their own support packages.

It will ensure that everyone, from those that just want advice and information about what is on offer to those that use services, are given choice, dignity and control in the way they lead their lives.

Kirklees Council is working hard to prepare for these changes and will be introducing a new person-led assessment process for new people coming forward for services from January 14.

Cllr Molly Walton, Cabinet Member for Adult Services said “Putting People First” concerns everyone in the care sector – whether they are a provider or a receiver of a service. We all share an ongoing interest in making sure the highest quality of health and social care and support is offered to people in need across Kirklees. We need to make sure people are able to get the information, advice and support they need to make life changing decisions when they need to do so. This includes carers and people that fund their own care.

“Personalisation will allow each person to have more choice and control over how their care needs are met. It will give them greater choice and the opportunity to have a direct payment to meet their needs and manage their own budgets where they choose to.

“In the future, everyone eligible for adult social care will have a personal budget – which means they will know how much money for social care services is available to them. This will allow people to decide what they need to make sure that they get the right support, at the right time in the right place. For people already receiving services, we plan to offer them the opportunity to take up a personal budget as part of their planned annual review, this will commence from April 2010.

For more information about 'Putting People First' visit [www.kirklees.gov.uk/puttingpeoplefirst](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/puttingpeoplefirst)

## NOTE TO EDITORS

'Putting People First' is about setting the direction for adult social care over the next 10 years and more. It's about creating a society where people can

have choice and control in their lives, whether they need support from others now or in the future.

To do this there needs to be a big change in the way communities and organisations work to support people.

People want quality services that are personal to them. They want more control over decisions that affect them. They also want to be treated with dignity and respect.

Key changes are taking place to make sure Kirklees will meet the Government's objective for 2011. Significant steps have been made towards reshaping adult social care services in line with Putting People First. The big changes will include making personal budgets available to everyone who is eligible and has ongoing care and support needs.

Person-led assessments and support planning will be introduced from January and will give people more choice and control over how their care and support needs are managed. Everyone coming new into the service from January will be offered the choice of taking a personal budget which they can take as cash to manage and control their own care. In some circumstances some people will ask us to manage this on their behalf, but they will still remain in control.

More people are having Direct Payments or Self Directed Support in Kirklees. This number will continue to increase as the agenda moves forward.

All councils are expected to have at least 30 percent of their customers using Self Directed Support by March 2011.

Kirklees Adult Services will be continuing to develop Self Directed Support by offering person led assessments to all new customers from January 2010. This will be offered to existing customers as part of their planned annual review from April 2010.