

Hi Lin,

many apologies for the continued delay.

In response to the question ; '**Can current Service Users go onto DPs now?**' the situation is currently that an individual who receives supporting people services and who also receives a direct payment for eligible services, then they can receive a direct payment for supporting people services and there are a number of people who do so .

The reason for this is that currently the only pathway for receiving a direct payment is to go through the eligibility route - where the individual is assessed for suitability for direct

This system does not currently exist for those who are not entitled to an assessment. The general principal of Direct Payments is that they must be offered to all eligible service users and potential service users.

In order to access Direct Payments, eligible service users need an assessment for their care needs and a support plan (showing the outcomes to be achieved) from the applicable service area.

Therefore, for previous SP services - unless the individual was eligible, then they would not be entitled to a DP.

There is work in progress to look at an integrated assessment process for the future which combines supporting people and eligible care into an integrated personal budget and '*following the introduction of the Framework Agreement for PC and CBS, our intention is that anyone who is allocated resources following an assessment of need and establishment of eligibility will be able to choose to receive their personal budget through the process of a direct payment.*'

Those who receive a targeted service will not be able to receive a DP (not only due to the limitations highlighted above), but furthermore, Direct Payments are only available where we buy on a spot basis and as some these services are still on a block/volume basis, in the interim, DPs cannot be available where there is a block purchase.

In the medium term this will depend on the way we purchase within the Framework.

Regards

Graham