

Funding the bid and ODI support

Question:

How will the funding be split between trailblazers?

Answer:

A maximum of £7 million is available for local authorities, Jobcentre Plus and other delivery agencies in the Trailblazer areas; this is over a two year period.

We have not decided precisely how to split this money between Trailblazers as we want final decisions to be informed by the bids themselves, although Trailblazer bids can assume a fairly even split. However, we stated in the Prospectus that we will reserve some limited flexibility to have fewer areas and give slightly more resources to joint bids if this provides the best overall 'package'.

We would expect the local split of Trailblazer funding between the Local Authority, Jobcentre Plus and other delivery agencies to be agreed locally, and, where possible, outlined in the bid.

Question:

What is the funding for?

Answer:

This grant funding is intended for implementing the Right to Control. It is not for supplementing services and support to disabled people – these must be managed in the Trailblazers within existing budgets.

Expected areas of spend could include:

- project management teams

- development of systems, including streamlining/aligning across funding streams (for example, assessment, resource allocation, support planning, review, financial administration and information system set up)
- workforce development (for example, initial training or involvement in design)
- building local capacity for advice, support planning and brokerage (for example, peer support, developing a user-led organisation or other private or voluntary sector role)
- market management (for example, development of procurement and commissioning strategies, contract renegotiation, transitional arrangements)
- working in partnership with disabled people and their organisations (co-production) in the context of all of these activities communications

NB The evaluation will be looking closely at implementation costs. If an authority supplements ODI grant funding for implementation with funding from other sources this would need to be identifiable and fed into the evaluation.

Question:

How will we receive the money?

Answer:

We will use the Local Government Act 2000 to transfer the money. The formal grant letter that awards the monies will contain the conditions for the grant. The final allocation to Trailblazers will be agreed with you before the letter is issued. We expect to pay the first tranche of grant in April 2010 and from then on a quarterly basis.

Question:

What support will Trailblazers receive from ODI?

Answer:

The ODI is committed to working with Trailblazer sites to ensure successful delivery of the Right to Control, and minimise duplication of effort. Support (which will be further tailored in discussion with Trailblazers) will comprise a range of different elements and will be available from the point of selection. It will include:

- ‘Kick-start’ support to help Trailblazers to get up and running quickly. A package of support offering expert advice and guidance on set-up, governance, action planning, data sharing, systems changes and on issues specific to funding streams.
- Ongoing support from ODI – clearing barriers at the centre, issuing advice and guidance, managing effective support from expert providers, encouraging local collaboration.
- ‘Field support’ to work with Trailblazers up to go live and during the life of the Trailblazer, monitoring progress, identifying and resolving local issues, sharing emerging practice, developing materials. (A similar role was performed by Care Services Improvement Partnership (CSIP) for the Individual Budget pilots.)
- An effective learning and support network for the Trailblazer sites to share learning, good practice and materials.
- Support for Jobcentre Plus Districts from Jobcentre Plus as well as from ODI.

Questions

How do you think you would spend the funding available? Can you identify specific areas where resources need to be focussed (this may vary between areas)

Are there areas of spend we have not identified?

Have you discussed with Jobcentre Plus and other agencies how the money might need to be spent?

Have you considered appropriate governance arrangements for agreeing and monitoring spend?

What other sources of funding are you considering applying to the project (eg Department of Health resources for ULOs etc)?