

# Right to Control: information for advice organisations



This short guide describes a new right for disabled people that is being tested in seven areas of England. This guide provides basic information about the right, who is eligible and explains where you can find out more.



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### **Why has the Right to Control been created?**

Many disabled people do not feel like they have control over the support they need to go about their daily lives.

The Right to Control is a new legal right for disabled people. Creating this new right recognises that disabled people are the experts in their own lives and know what support they need to meet their needs and achieve their ambitions.

The Right to Control will give disabled people more control not just over specific social care, but also housing and employment support, making it easier for individuals to join up the support they require.

The Right to Control demonstrates the government's commitment to personalisation for disabled people. It is part of the government's wider commitment to ensuring all people have greater choice and control in their lives. The Right to Control builds on recent progress in personalisation, particularly the use of personal budgets for the payment of adult social care.

The Office for Disability Issues (ODI) has worked with disabled people and their organisations to create this new legal right. Disabled people's expertise and experiences have informed the development of the project and the legislation.

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## **What is the Right to Control?**

The Right to Control is a new legal right for disabled people.

It will give disabled people more control over specific social care, housing and employment support. It will make it easier for disabled people to join up the support they receive from different services.

A disabled person will be able to choose how money is spent to support them if they are a new applicant for one or more of these services:

- Access to Work
- Adult Social Care
- Disabled Facilities Grant
- Supporting People
- Work Choice

Individuals that already receive support from the Independent Living Fund will also be able to have more control over their support.

More information about these support services is available on [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk)

A disabled person will be able to choose how they receive their support. They can choose to:

- use the support service that is offered now, if they want to use that service
- let a public body arrange a different support service
- where possible, buy their own support using money given to them by a public body
- have a mix of these.

The public body that works with a disabled person will usually be a local authority or local Jobcentre Plus.

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### **Example**

**John currently has three different support workers.**

- **Christopher provides personal assistance to John for one hour each morning from funding provided by Adult Social Care.**
- **John works during the week. Access to Work provides funding for Mandy to attend John's workplace and assist him.**
- **John has assistance from Simon the local community worker provided by Supporting People to help him maintain his tenancy.**

**Under the Right to Control, although John still has his funding provided by three separate funding streams, he chooses to appoint Christopher to assist him in all his requirements at home, at work and to help him maintain his tenancy.**

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### **Example**

**Aysha has a learning disability and gets help from Supporting People to learn skills that will help her live independently. This includes cooking and budgeting. She wants to be a carpenter and gets support from Work Choice, to help her learn new skills and find a job.**

**Aysha decides to take a direct payment. She uses the Supporting People funding to pay for a college course in life skills. She uses Work Choice funding to pay for a course in carpentry and a job coach. In the third term of her course, the college will help her find an apprenticeship and her coach will help her settle in and learn the new routine at work.**

**Aysha thinks that doing her training at college will give her more opportunities to meet new people and try out her new skills. She plans to join their theatre group and help build the scenery.**

### **Example**

**Mina uses a wheelchair and needs a stair lift and a shower adaptation in order to go about her daily life. Before the Right to Control, the local authority would have arranged for these works to be done by approved builders. Under the Right to Control, Mina chooses to take the cost of these works as a direct payment. She puts this funding together with her own savings and chooses builders she is familiar with to build an extension to the ground floor of her house which incorporates a bedroom and an accessible shower of her choice.**

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### **Example**

**Peter has a fluctuating mental health condition. He has spent time in a psychiatric unit and has been homeless in the past. The effects of medication and a lack of exercise meant he was very overweight.**

**Making use of the funding available to him from Adult Social Care and Supporting People, he now lives in a housing association flat and sees a community psychiatric nurse every three weeks. He chose to have a direct payment and use the money to join a gym, buy and insure a second hand car, buy a bike and other clothing for outdoor activities. By using his budget in these ways he achieved the following outcomes:**

- **he lost weight, met new people, engaged in new activities and was less socially isolated**
- **he became less paranoid and his mental health improved**
- **he finished a mechanical engineering degree that he had dropped out of some years previously.**

## **Who will have the Right to Control?**

At the moment the Right to Control is available to disabled people living in seven test areas in England, called Trailblazers.

A disabled person is entitled to the Right to Control if they live in a Trailblazer, are aged 18 or over and are a new applicant for one of these support services:

- Access to Work
  - Adult Social Care
  - Disabled Facilities Grant
  - Supporting People
  - Work Choice
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Individuals that already receive support from the Independent Living Fund and live in a Trailblazer will be contacted about how they can have more control over their support.

The Right to Control is available to all disabled people who are eligible for the services listed above, including people with mental health conditions or learning disabilities.

## **Where are the Trailblazers?**

Trailblazers are areas where the Right to Control is being tested. They are a partnership between a local authority, Jobcentre Plus and local disabled people's organisations. They will run for two years. Disabled people who live in the local authority areas listed below can have the Right to Control.

Five Trailblazers start on 13 December 2010:

- Essex County Council
- Leicester City Council
- London Borough of Barnet
- London Borough of Newham
- Epsom and Ewell Borough Council, and Reigate and Banstead Borough Council (which are part of Surrey County Council).

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council and Sheffield City Council will start on 1 March 2011.

Manchester area (which includes Manchester City Council, Oldham Council, Bury Council, Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council and Trafford Council) will start on 1 April 2011.

The Trailblazers will end on 13 December 2012. The government will evaluate the Trailblazers and then decide whether to roll out the Right nationally.

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**Complaints about being refused the Right to Control**

If a disabled person has a complaint about being refused the Right to Control or being refused a direct payment, they can use the normal complaints procedure for the type of support they are receiving.

Information can be requested about how to complain from the public body they are working with (normally your local authority or Jobcentre Plus).

Feedback about the Right to Control project can be sent to the Office for Disability Issues: [right.control@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:right.control@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

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## **Find out more about Right to Control in your area**

Disabled people who live in a Trailblazer can find out more about the Right to Control by using the contact details below.

### **Essex County Council**

**Telephone:** 0845 743 0463

**Email:** [rtcoffice@essex.gov.uk](mailto:rtcoffice@essex.gov.uk)

This Trailblazer starts on 13 December 2010.

### **Leicester City Council**

**Telephone:** 0116 252 8882

**Email:** [Right-toControl@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Right-toControl@leicester.gov.uk)

**Website:** [www.lcil.org.uk](http://www.lcil.org.uk)

This Trailblazer starts on 13 December 2010.

### **London Borough of Barnet**

Individuals can contact Barnet Centre for Independent Living.

**Telephone:** 020 8359 7900

**Local authority website:** [www.socialcareconnect.barnet.gov.uk](http://www.socialcareconnect.barnet.gov.uk)

This Trailblazer starts on 13 December 2010.

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### London Borough of Newham

**Telephone:** 020 8430 2000

**Email:** [CC-SD.Enquiries@newham.gov.uk](mailto:CC-SD.Enquiries@newham.gov.uk)

**Website:** [www.newham.gov.uk/righttocontrol](http://www.newham.gov.uk/righttocontrol)

This Trailblazer starts on 13 December 2010.

### Surrey County Council

The Right to Control is available in two parts only:  
Epsom and Ewell Borough Council and Reigate and Banstead  
Borough Council.

**Telephone:** 01372 744479

**Website:** [www.surreycc.gov.uk](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk)

This Trailblazer starts on 13 December 2010.

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### Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council and Sheffield City Council

Disabled people living in the Sheffield area can contact Sheffield Centre for Independent Living and ask for the Information Officer.

**Address:** The Circle, 33 Rockingham Lane, Sheffield, S1 4FW

**Telephone:** 0114 253 6750

**Fax:** 0114 253 6757

**Email:** [info@inclusivesheffield.org.uk](mailto:info@inclusivesheffield.org.uk)

**Website:** [www.sheffieldcil.org.uk/](http://www.sheffieldcil.org.uk/)

Disabled people living in the Barnsley area can contact DIAL Barnsley.

**Telephone:** 01226 240273

**Email:** [info@dialbarnsley.org.uk](mailto:info@dialbarnsley.org.uk)

**Website:** [www.dialbarnsley.org.uk](http://www.dialbarnsley.org.uk)

This Trailblazer starts on 1 March 2011.

### Manchester area

Disabled people living in the local authority areas listed can contact Breakthrough UK.

**Areas:** Manchester City Council, Oldham Council, Bury Council, Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council and Trafford Council

**Website:** [www.breakthrough-uk.co.uk](http://www.breakthrough-uk.co.uk)

**Telephone:** 0161 273 5412

This Trailblazer starts on 1 April 2011.

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## Where to find out more

**Right to Control**

The Right to Control project is managed by the ODI. More information about this project is available on our website:

[www.odi.gov.uk/right-to-control](http://www.odi.gov.uk/right-to-control)

**Access to Work**

Access to Work can help people whose health or disability affects the way they do their job. It gives an employee and their employer advice and support with extra costs which may arise because of a health condition or disability.

Read more about Access to Work on Directgov:

[www.direct.gov.uk/accesstowork](http://www.direct.gov.uk/accesstowork)

**Adult Social Care**

Adult Social Care is sometimes known as Community Care Services. These services help disabled people and older people, usually in their own home. It could help pay for help with washing and dressing, help with shopping, cooked meals brought to people's houses and day centres where people can go to meet other people.

More information about arranging health and social care can be found on Directgov:

[www.direct.gov.uk/socialcaresupport](http://www.direct.gov.uk/socialcaresupport)

**Disabled Facilities Grant**

A Disabled Facilities Grant is a local council grant to help towards the cost of adapting a home to enable a disabled person to continue living there.

Read more about the Disabled Facilities Grant on Directgov:

[www.direct.gov.uk/facilitiesgrant](http://www.direct.gov.uk/facilitiesgrant)

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**Independent Living Fund**

The Independent Living Fund provides money for disabled people who need extra help to live independent lives in their community rather than in residential care.

Read more about the Independent Living Fund on Directgov:  
[www.direct.gov.uk/ilf](http://www.direct.gov.uk/ilf)

**Supporting People**

Supporting People provides housing-related support to groups of people who need extra support, one of these groups is disabled people. The service aims to help people so they can stay in their own home.

Read more about Supporting People on Directgov:  
[www.direct.gov.uk/supportingpeople](http://www.direct.gov.uk/supportingpeople)

**Work Choice**

Work Choice helps disabled people who need specialist support to find work or keep a job once they have started work.

Read more about Work Choice on Directgov:  
[www.direct.gov.uk/workchoice](http://www.direct.gov.uk/workchoice)

**Personal health budgets**

The Department of Health is currently piloting personal health budgets as a way of giving people more control over how money is spent on their NHS funded care. This is sometimes known as direct payments for healthcare.

More information can be found at  
[www.personalhealthbudgets.dh.gov.uk](http://www.personalhealthbudgets.dh.gov.uk)



Office for Disability Issues

HM Government

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