



# Office for Disability Issues

HM Government



## **Right to Control trailblazer update 2010/5**

Issue 5 – January 2010

Dear all,

This is the fifth update from the Right to Control team. Since we last wrote to you, we have held two workshops to assist potential sites with developing their bids. These were held in London on 8 January and in Manchester on 15 January. We hope that everyone who attended found them useful. You can find the slides from these events and additional information we provided for completing your bid online on our information for local authorities page:

[www.odi.gov.uk/working/information-la.php](http://www.odi.gov.uk/working/information-la.php)

### **News in brief**

A reminder that the deadline for bids to become a Right to Control Trailblazer will be 5pm on Friday, 29 January 2010. Please send your bids to [right.control@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:right.control@dwp.gsi.gov.uk) or to The Right to Control Team, Office for Disability Issues, Ground Floor, Caxton House, Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NA. This deadline will not be extended. Page 26 of the prospectus provides you with more information about submitting your bid.

In addition to the information we have put online from January's workshop events (see above), we have answered some additional questions from the workshops in this newsletter. These can be found on page 4.

## **Dates for the Selection Panel**

As we have previously told you, shortlisted Trailblazer bids will be asked to attend a selection panel where they will be questioned on their plans for implementation and scored according to the answers they provide. The selection panel will be made up of representatives from the Right to Control Project Board, Advisory Group, disabled people and other experts.

The selection panel will be held on 8, 9 and 17 February in London. You may want to consider who would attend the panel on behalf of your Trailblazer bid. We would encourage representatives from all agencies and groups who have developed the bid to attend the panel. Please let us know if you have any access requirements.

## **Further information and advice**

If you have any other questions about the application process or generally about the Right to Control, please don't hesitate to contact us. Alternatively, all of the information we have provided for Trailblazer bids, including frequently asked questions and previously issued newsletters, is online at [www.odi.gov.uk/working/information-la.php](http://www.odi.gov.uk/working/information-la.php)

We are keen to encourage dialogue with you in the bidding process and to help you put together your bid. Please feel free to contact:

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## **Questions from the Trailblazer workshops**

### **Q - We won't be able to finalise all aspects of our bid in time.**

A - We appreciate that the detailed design of the Trailblazers will take time and this is why trailblazers would not be implemented until late 2010. We do not expect all aspects of the Trailblazer to be finalised by the time you submit your bid. We are, however, keen to understand from your bid what issues your local authority will be facing in order to deliver the Right to Control and how you plan to tackle these.

The prospectus outlines the support ODI will be providing after the Trailblazers are selected to enable them to go live late in 2010.

### **Q - Will areas that have been involved in other pilots or schemes (for example the Personal Health Budget pilots) be at an advantage?**

A - No. Although some areas are more advanced in delivering the personalisation agenda, we are keen to test how the Right to Control works in a range of areas. Your application should outline what other initiatives are underway in your area, and how the Right to Control will fit with, and contribute to, your current priorities.

**Q - There is a lack of clarity on how the customer journey for Access to Work and Work Choice will work. For example, where will the money to provide direct payments for Work Choice sit?**

A - Jobcentre Plus has developed some possible customer journeys for Access to Work and Work Choice to assist with putting together the Trailblazer bid. For customers who wish to take a direct payment from the Work Choice funding stream, a pot of money to enable this will be held centrally.

**Q - Some areas only have a few providers that customers will be able to use. Equally, some areas are tied into block contracts for some services. How can we deliver the Right to Control?**

A - The Right to Control is about a fundamental change in culture and commissioning strategies. We realise that developing a market may take some time, and Trailblazers will need to consider these issues as part of their bids. However, we know that the best providers are already keen to work in partnership with service users to design and deliver services, and we would expect the Right to Control to further assist with this development of best practice.

**Q - In the Trailblazers bids you talk about long-term floating support as a minimum requirement. What do you expect to see in terms of other support provided through Supporting People funding?**

A – Long-term floating support, expected to last for two years or more, has been included as a minimum requirement for Trailblazers as this funding should not effect a disabled person's financial commitment, through their tenancy agreement, to their landlord. We have also not required the inclusion of short term support as we understand the

difficulties associated with tracking people in receipt of this support, and with block commissioning.

However, we are keen to see in your bids how the Right to Control could also apply for these other elements of Supporting People. If you feel any short term support could be included, we would like to hear about it. We are also keen to explore how the Right to Control could apply for disabled people whose support services are tied in with their tenancy. We understand that this presents challenges around contracting, but any innovation you can display in this area will be welcome. One possible way of doing this could be to determine a unit cost for the support received by a disabled tenant, as separate from their tenancy funding, enabling the disabled person to exercise the Right to Control over this portion of the funding.

Page 14 of the prospectus outlines our requirements for Supporting People in the Trailblazers.

**Q - What scope is there to offer people with different needs the Right to Control eg women suffering domestic violence?**

A - The Right to Control will only extend to people in these circumstances if they have support needs relating to an impairment, long term illness/condition or disabling barriers. For example, support given to a disabled woman fleeing domestic violence would not be included in the Right to Control unless it were being given to overcome barriers associated with her impairment. The Right would not cover support being given to meet any needs that she might have in common with other women fleeing domestic violence.

**Q - Can we develop different customer journeys for different client groups?**

A - Any customer journey would have to capture the stages laid down in legislation (outlined in sections 3.2 and 3.3 of the prospectus). However, at stage 3 of the customer journey (information about and access to other funding streams), if the person was very unlikely to be eligible, there would be no need to refer them to other funding streams (eg Work Choice).

**Q - Can a local authority only test the Right to Control on a limited number of client groups – for example just learning disabled adults – or on a few of the named funding streams?**

A - No. The Right must apply to all new applicants in the Trailblazer area, and across all the designated funding streams. There is no discretion to select client groups, or funding streams (unlike the individual budget pilots).

However, for two tier authorities, we recognise that not all Districts may be able to achieve this for Disabled Facilities Grant (DFGs), and we don't want this to prevent bids from coming forward. We can name in our regulations the districts where the Right to Control will apply to Disabled Facilities Grant. We have provided more information on DFGs online at [www.odi.gov.uk/working/information-la.php](http://www.odi.gov.uk/working/information-la.php)

**Q - How should we assess whether people are eligible for the Right to Control?**

A - We are not changing the eligibility criteria for any of the funding streams covered by the Right to Control. You should keep the same criteria for assessing eligibility that you use at present.

**Q - Can we include diagrams in our bids?**

A - Yes. You may want to show how the customer journey would work in your area with a diagram, for example.

**Q - Will there be an increase to the Disabled Facilities Grant budget when Right to Control is brought in?**

A - No. The amount of resource available will remain the same. The Right to Control is about improving how existing budgets are accessed and used by people.

**Q - How do we monitor Right to Control spending – what level of auditing is appropriate?**

A - We would expect your bid to outline how the support plan is monitored to ensure the individual is meeting their agreed objectives.

**Q - Will the evaluation be focussed on the cost of delivering the Right to Control?**

A - The evaluation will cover a broad range of outcomes – including the impact of the Right to Control Trailblazers on the experiences of, and outcomes for, disabled adults. It will also cover any costs associated with, eg streamlining across funding streams and advice, information and assistance required by disabled people to, eg develop a Support Plan. Section 6 of the prospectus outlines the evaluation in more detail.

**Q - How much contact has there been the Department of Health and ODI about the Right to Control?**

A - We work closely with colleagues in the Department of Health. The Right to Control builds on work already underway, in particular the

government's investment in implementing the Putting People First agenda.

**Q - Is Adult Social Care included in the legislation for the Right to Control?**

A - The Welfare Reform Act 2009 enables Adult Social Care to be fully aligned with the Right to Control Trailblazers. The Department of Health will issue Directions to the Trailblazer areas to enable the full flexibilities of the Right to Control to be delivered to individuals in receipt of Adult Social Care.

**Q - How can we bring assessment processes together to reduce burdens on the individual?**

A - We would expect your bid to outline how you intend to streamline the different customer journeys for the funding streams in your area to deliver a more joined up service to your customers.

**Q - Will there be new IT systems introduced into Trailblazer areas to deliver the Right to Control?**

A - No. You may wish to outline how you would adapt existing systems to help you deliver the Right to Control in your bid.

**Q - Can we implement the Right to Control if we are not selected to be a Trailblazer?**

A - No. Regulations will clearly state where the Right to Control Trailblazers will be. However, we may ask you to be a control area, depending on the final selection of sites.

**Q - What are your plans for the wider roll out of the Right to Control?**

A - Our evaluation will inform any decisions on the wider roll out of the Right to Control.