



Moving Forward with Personal Health Budgets in Lancashire



Introduction

Personal Health Budgets (PHBs) have been available for people with Continuing Healthcare needs in Lancashire since April 2014. Since October 2014 those in receipt of Continuing Healthcare have had a “right to have” a PHB.

NHS England would now like CCGs to expand the “offer” of PHBs to other people with ongoing health needs. As well as those adults and children with Continuing Healthcare needs, during 2016-17 Lancashire CCGs will also be offering PHBs to the following patient groups.

- Adults and Children who do not qualify for NHS Continuing Healthcare, but who have been assessed as eligible for a package of care jointly funded by health and social care.
- Adults with learning disabilities and/or autism eligible for a jointly funded health and social care package (excluding those clients who are already in any pooled fund arrangements, where the NHS contribution to your care is held together with the social services contribution).
- Children and young adults with Education, Health and Care Plans including those in transition between children and adult services.
- Adults with Complex health and social care needs, who are eligible for jointly funded packages of care.

Each request will be considered on a case by case basis.

PHBs offer the opportunity to work in equal partnership with the CCG about how your health and wellbeing needs can best be met, and are one way for you to have more choice and control over your healthcare and support.

What are Personal Health Budgets?

PA personal health budget is a sum of money provided by Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) which you have agreed with your healthcare professional to spend on your health and well-being needs.

A healthcare professional could be a continuing healthcare (CHC) nurse, a learning disability nurse, a district nurse, community matron or another health professional who works closely with you.

Who is offering Personal Health Budgets for patients in Lancashire?

The NHS Midlands and Lancashire Commissioning Support Unit (MLCSU) are supporting the following clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) to offer PHBs:

- Blackburn with Darwen CCG
- Greater Preston CCG
- Chorley and South Ribble CCG
- Lancashire North CCG
- East Lancashire CCG
- West Lancashire CCG
- Fylde and Wyre CCG

How will I know if I can have a Personal Health Budget?

- To find out if you are eligible to have a personal health budget you will need to have an assessment of your health needs.
- If you are eligible, your healthcare professional will use the assessment to work out a sum of money with which you could meet your assessed needs. This is called an “indicative budget” which may go up or down following the completion of a Care and Support plan. Assistance completing your Care and Support Plan is available.
- Your plan will tell us how you would like to spend the sum of money to achieve your health outcomes and meet your needs.
- If your Care and Support plan is agreed you will be able to purchase the services you have chosen in your plan.

It may take some time to arrange the care and support you will be purchasing with your PHB. If you need a care package until it is arranged the CCG will fund this until your PHB is up and running.

How is my Personal Health Budget calculated?

Before you start to develop your Care and Support Plan you will be provided with an “indicative budget”. This is an estimated amount based on the level of care and support that the CCG would purchase to meet your assessed health and well-being needs.. We also fund the support you need to get your PHB set-up, for example recruitment costs, training for staff and any ongoing support you may need to manage your PHB. This will differ from one person to the next. If you choose to use care agency support to meet your needs we understand that the final costs will be higher than your “indicative budget”.

Will it affect my benefits?

A PHB is not a welfare benefit and is not a part of the benefits system.

This means that a PHB is not taken into account when calculating your benefits entitlement. PHBs are given in order to meet health and wellbeing needs, and cannot be spent for any other purpose. The seven Lancashire CCGs have a duty to ensure that payments are being used for what has been agreed with your health professional and documented in your Care and Support plan and are entitled to recover any money that is not spent appropriately.

Is there help available to manage a Personal Health Budget?

You can choose to take your PHB in any of the following ways and assistance is available whichever way you choose:

1. Direct Payment

In this option you will either receive the money into a personal health budget bank account managed by yourself or into a bank account managed by a Direct Payment Support Service.

You will buy the support that has been agreed will meet your healthcare needs in your Care and Support plan. If you are managing the money yourself you will need to keep a record of how the money has been spent including keeping receipts and bank statements. A Support Service can help you with all aspects of having a Direct Payment type of PHB.

If you wish to employ Personal Assistants directly this is the option you have to choose.

Where a person lacks capacity to receive and manage a Direct Payment a representative can manage it on their behalf.

2. Third Party PHB

This option means that an approved provider holds the PHB for you and provides carers directly to you. The provider manages the staff and the money but will involve you in the allocation of carers so that you have consistent and reliable care staff.

3. Notional Budget Option

No money changes hands with this option. You find out how much money is available and decide what care and support you would like to receive in order to meet your health outcomes. Your healthcare professional will then make the arrangements for you. You cannot employ personal assistants if you choose this option.

Is there help available to develop my Care and Support Plan?

Yes. If you choose to take your PHB as a Direct Payment you will be offered help from an independent organisation to complete your Care and Support Plan

If you choose a Third Party PHB the provider you choose will help you develop your Care and Support Plan.

Must I have a Personal Health Budget?

No. If you do not want to have a personal health budget at this time your CCG will continue to provide services to meet your health needs as it does normally.

What can I spend my Personal Health Budget on?

PHBs can only be used to meet your health and well-being needs identified during your Health Needs Assessment and agreed in your Care and Support Plan. You may choose to meet your needs in a different way than how the CCG would normally provide services.

The aim of PHBs is to allow you real flexibility in planning the care and support that you need.

You can spend your personal health budget on healthcare and support such as treatments, equipment and personal care in order to meet your personal goals as set out in your Care and Support plan. Inpatient and emergency hospital care and the care you normally get from your GP cannot be paid from your budget.

You are not allowed to spend the money on gambling, debt repayment, alcohol, tobacco, or anything illegal.

Can I employ family carers?

A Direct Payment can only be used to pay an individual living in the same household, a close family member or a friend if the CCG is satisfied that to secure a service from that person is necessary in order to satisfactorily meet the recipient's need; or to promote the welfare of a child for whom direct payments are being made. Your CCG will make these judgements on a case by case basis.

Will I be asked to show how I have spent the money if I choose the Direct payment option?

PHBs can only be used as agreed in your PHB Care and Support Plan. You will need to keep a record of how the money is spent and this will be checked from time to time by an auditor.

The balance of the Direct payment bank account will be reviewed regularly and if there is an underspend of funds in the account, excluding money for emergencies, it will be returned to the CCG (unless a prior agreement has been made with your health professional).

If you would like to talk to someone about Personal Health Budgets please contact:

Blackburn with Darwen Patients:

Self-Directed Support team
01254 585339
direct.payments@blackburn.gov.uk

Lancashire Patients:

NHS Continuing Healthcare Team
Central: 01772 214560
North: 01253 657193
Pennine: 01282 644901

Alternatively you can email an enquiry about PHBs to the PHB Team at this email address

mlcsu.phbrequest@nhs.net

Blackburn with Darwen CCG

Fusion House, Evolution Park
Haslingden Road, Blackburn, BB1 2FD
01254 282000
customer.care@lancashirecsu.nhs.uk

East Lancashire CCG

Walshaw House, Regent Street
Nelson, BB9 8AS
01282 644700
customer.care@lancashirecsu.nhs.uk

Greater Preston CCG

Chorley House
Lancashire Business Park
Centurion Way, Leyland, PR26 6TT
01772 214 200
enquiries@greaterprestonccg.nhs.uk

West Lancashire CCG

Hilldale, Wigan Road
Ormskirk, L39 2JW
01695 588000
info@westlancashireccg.nhs.uk

Chorley and South Ribble CCG

Chorley House,
Lancashire Business Park
Centurion Way, Leyland, PR26 6TT
01772 214 200
enquiries@chorleysouthribbleccg.nhs.uk

Fylde and Wyre CCG

Derby Road, Wesham, PR4 3AL
01253 306305
enquiries@fyldeandwyreccg.nhs.uk

Lancashire North CCG

Moor Lane Mills, Moor Lane
Lancaster, LA1 1QD
01524 519369
info@lancashirenorthccg.nhs.uk

Midlands & Lancashire CSU

Jubilee House
Lancashire Business Park
Leyland, PR26 6TR
01772 214200
customer.care@lancashirecsu.nhs.uk

For further information visit

www.midlandsandlancashirecsu.nhs.uk