

Individual Budgets / Personal Budgets

Essex County Council was one of 13 local authorities in the country piloting the idea of Individual Budgets for the Government to establish whether it can work nationwide.

The pilot was running since April to December 2007. During this time we were testing Individual Budgets with around 100 people selected at random. The project is being evaluated by independent researchers and a “control group” has also been selected to ensure the evaluation is fair.

The project was working with the following groups:

- Adults aged 18-65 with a physical impairment and/or learning disability

Carers

- Young people in transition

The basic idea of an Individual budget is to make things less complicated. The aim is to put the individual at the centre of the process and to give them the power to decide the nature of their own support. It enables them to have the choice and flexibility to use their budget in the way that suits them best. ECC leaflet ‘An Introduction to Individual Budgets / Personal Budgets’ gives more details

The Putting Essex People First consultation is about proposals to transform the way adult social care is provided in Essex to a system of self-directed support and Personal Budgets for all new service users from the second half of 2008.

P.S. Individual Budgets are called now **Personal Budgets**