



KIDS launches free suite of resources to support families with disabled children who will use personal budgets, commissioners and others in children's services.

12th February 2013

Today KIDS launches a new suite of resources to support families and carers of disabled children who will be using the new personal budgets.

KIDS works with disabled children, young people and their families. As part of the 'Making it Personal' project, sponsored by the Department for Education, KIDS has worked with a number of partners to develop a new suite of resources to explore how personal budgets can be used to their best advantage.

OPM, Disability Rights UK, In Control, NAFIS and the Daycare Trust have worked together with KIDS to develop guidance for commissioners and others in children's services on how to commission for personalisation, along with a handbook for parents and carers of disabled children on what personal budgets are and how they can be used.

This work was developed in response to the Department for Education's Green Paper *Support and Aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability (DfE 2011)*

"To give parents confidence by giving them more control over the support their family receives, we will introduce more transparency in the provision of services for children and young people who are disabled or who have SEN. Parents will have real choice over their child's education and the opportunity for direct control over support for their family. We propose the option of a personal budget by 2014 for all families with children with a statement of SEN or a new 'Education, Health and Care Plan', many of whom will have complex support needs. Key workers will be trained to advise families and help them navigate the range of help available across health, education and social care."

Anyone wishing to access the Commissioner's Guidance can download it here:

http://www.kids.org.uk/information/100347/106207/106214/106216/for_commissioners/

Parents and carers of disabled children can download the Parent's Handbook here:

http://www.kids.org.uk/information/100347/106207/106214/106217/for_parents_and_carers/

An eLearning package for parents and carers is under development and will be released during March 2013, supported by regional events. For more information on this please email coe@kids.org.uk

If you want to find out more about the 'Making it Personal' project, you can find more information here: <http://www.kids.org.uk/mip>

KIDS works across all of England. The charity has also pioneered a range of approaches for working with disabled children including Portage (home learning), Direct Short Breaks and England's first inclusive adventure playground.

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Notes to Editors

KIDS' vision is a world in which all disabled children and young people realise their aspirations and their right to a community which includes them and their families.

www.kids.org.uk.

KIDS is a charity that was established in 1970 by John Mulcahy, a teacher who became concerned about the development of a disabled child in one of his classes. John wanted to improve communication with this child and sought guidance from the child's mother.

His approach established the KIDS ethos of working in partnership with parents and carers to enable disabled children and young people to develop their skills and abilities – and to fulfil their potential, hopes and aspirations. Forty years on, this is still the basis of our work, though the [charity](#) has grown substantially since the initial holidays it provided in the 70s, and now delivers a range of services for all disabled children and young people up to the age of 25 across England.

KIDS has been at the forefront of developing services for disabled children and young people throughout its history (see below for more information about our work). We are proud to have introduced Portage to England several decades ago, but our pioneering work continues. Two years ago KIDS launched a web site through which parents and carers can book short breaks for disabled children and young people in England – www.directshortbreaks.org.uk – the first of its kind.

In addition to working directly with thousands of children, young people and their families each year, KIDS now also works with professionals in this field to provide resources, training and best practice examples to help them to work inclusively.

For further details please contact ndd@kids.org.uk

You can follow KIDS on [facebook](#) and [twitter](#).

OPM is an independent organisation that helps public services across all sectors to improve outcomes and performance, through high quality research, evaluation, engagement, people and organisational development.

OPM has extensive experience of working with commissioners, policy-makers and professionals, as well as families themselves, to improve services and support for children and young people. Recent examples include evaluations for BBC Children in Need, evaluation of the SEN Pathfinders for Department for Education. OPM was the lead organisation in the consortia delivering the DfE's Commissioning Support Programme.

You can read more about the work OPM does on our website – www.opm.co.uk – and you can follow us on Twitter @OPMnetwork