



## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 0415101  
Date            6 May 2015

### ***Support for Individual Employers and Personal Assistants***

#### **Request:**

1. What mechanisms do you have in place to help individual employers recruit personal assistants?  
For direct payments recipients we have a contract with a support agency called Penderels Trust. Part of their remit is to provide help and advice to people who wish to employ their own personal assistants which include support with recruitment. We also offer a range of literature/factsheets for reference and we also signpost to the Skills for Care website.
2. Do you keep a register of personal assistants working in your local authority area? Not at present, however we are due to launch an online Personal Assistants Network in the next few months where personal assistants can register their details online and prospective employers can also post their vacancies.
3. Do you encourage individual employers to register personal assistants on the National Minimum Dataset for Social Care? If yes, please provide evidence of how you do this.  
All new employers are advised of the NMDS-SC as part of the information given to them in their support pack provided by Penderels Trust. Should anyone require assistance to complete their registration then Penderels will provide that assistance.
4. Do you provide any learning and development opportunities to personal assistants?  
We offer in-house courses and also signpost to the Workforce Development Fund via Skills for Care.

5. What local authority-provided training is available to personal assistants? Please specify if the cost of the training is met by the individual employer or the council.

We request the employer and personal assistant to identify the training need and then if it can be provided in-house it will be funded by the Council. Generally we have provided courses including manual handling, emergency aid, food hygiene, dementia awareness, safeguarding.

6. Do you provide support to individual employers to help them access the Workforce Development Fund, which can be used to pay for training of personal assistants? If yes, please provide details of this support.

Support has been provided via Penderels Trust in terms of assisting with completion of the forms and identifying courses available and costs.

7. Do you promote apprenticeship opportunities to individual employers and their personal assistants? If yes, please provide details of these apprenticeships.

No, not provided as yet however, this is referred to in the Care Act suggesting that Councils provide apprenticeships therefore it is something we will be looking at.

8. Do you facilitate networks of individual employers and/or networks of personal assistants? If yes, please provide details of these networks.

There is a peer support group that Penderels initiated for DP recipients to attend however this is due to be reviewed due to poor take-up. There is no network for personal assistants currently.