

The importance of training within Personal Budgets

Chris Jordan

With two hats on!

Two Hats!

- See from both sides, the importance of Personal Budgets to me, today
 - Father of Son with learning difficulties
 - And....run a Social Enterprise
- Both the individuals and the Social Enterprises need training provision within Personal Budgets going forward, when appropriate!
- **My View!**

Alex, my son

- Has moderate learning difficulties
- But very capable in many ways!
- Fit and active

Alex

- Has walked up Mt Kenya
 - Raised £16,000 for Mencap
- Has cycled from Lands End to John O' Groats
 - Raised over £12000 for our Foundation
- BUT.....

Alex

- We would not see him again if we put him on the Bus or Train!
 - Degree of Autism
 - Reading and writing skills very poor

Personal Budgets

- Alex is very capable of entering the workplace.
 - He, and many others like him, deserve the opportunity, like everyone else, to contribute to Society.
 - Hard worker – does not complain
 - Suited to certain task
- There needs to be more focus on finding work that is suitable for these individuals?
- Big subject!

Personal Budgets

- Worked hard to make sure that Alex had a Training Element in his Personal Budget
- Vital if he is to be able to afford to train, to enter the workplace?

Personal Budgets

- Now training, but.....
 - More proactive approach needed from Agencies to find work for these individuals?
 - They need to find and offer the quality opportunities?
 - Where are they?
 - Too many YP finish up in seasonal work?
 - Often inappropriate
 - What do they do in the winter?

Other Hat!

- Run operation in Kidderminster
- SPOKES CIC trains individuals with Learning Disabilities to be able to enter the workplace
- Set up three years ago
 - Closure of other enterprise
- Unique in area



Spokes CIC

- Take in bikes from Public
 - Individuals rebuild these, then sold
 - Repair bikes for public, local schools and Police!
 - Run bike clubs on local Estates
 - Our individuals help these disadvantaged youngsters make their bikes safe for the road
 - Good Community relations
 - Work with Kidderminster College



Spokes CIC

- We aim to raise 50% of the monies we need to operate from trading income
 - And we do!
 - Vital for any Social Enterprise
 - Good value for the Taxpayer!
- But.....

Spokes CIC

-finance very difficult for Spokes
 - Employees work on minimum wage
- Sporadic income stream makes planning very difficult
 - Longer term plan required
- Balance between running a training centre and production
 - We are not a bike shop!

The Emily Jordan Foundation

- Want to expand Spokes and offer other training to these individuals
 - Computer Training
 - Bird box, Bat box, etc. building
- Have raised £150,000 in past 12 months.
- Purchasing a £360,000 unit
- Help these individuals achieve their potential!



Personal Budgets

- Vital for us, and all other Social Enterprises that a Training Budget is part of the Individual's Budget
 - Reduction in Grants?
 - Future primary income stream?
 - How else will these enterprises have income?
- Strong believer in Personal Budgets

And the Good News!

- Gives the individuals Choice!
- Enables them to experience different skills
- Gives them the best opportunities
- Is the 'best value'

Thank You

Chris Jordan