

## Training for Independent Support Brokers

### A RARE OPPORTUNITY FOR INDIVIDUALS AND SMALL ORGANISATIONS TO ACCESS THE NDTi'S HIGHLY REGARDED TRAINING COURSE

For the last six years, the National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi) has been providing training for independent support brokers. The course has been developed and refined to meet the evolving requirements of personalised social care in England, while also drawing on international experience. As a result it offers a uniquely clear picture of the support broker role.

The course delivers the foundation skills and knowledge required to work effectively and confidently as a support broker, and is appropriate for people from a wide range of backgrounds.

This training has previously been commissioned by councils, with participants drawn from the local community. Now, for the first time in England, the course is offered on a pay-per-place basis to individuals who want to take on this new and important role.



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# Training for Independent Support Brokers

## COURSE DATES:

10th and 11th May 2010;  
17<sup>th</sup> May 2010; and  
25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> May 2010

## LOCATION:

Best Western Premier Blunsdon House Hotel  
The Ridge, Blunsdon, Swindon, SN26 7AS

## COURSE AIMS AND CONTENT

The training aims to equip participants with the minimum knowledge and skills required to offer brokerage assistance as a paid service. Although the course is fairly intensive, and delivered by two trainers, it is of course impossible in five days to cover every aspect of policy and provision to a support brokers role. So, instead, the course focuses on core skills, and information specific to the broker role, while offering pointers and plentiful handouts for more general information. The main components are designed to provide -

- a clear understanding of the aims and principles of a social care system based on individualised funding (such as Personal Budgets), and the place of the support broker within that system.
- an understanding of the policies and practicalities of social care personalisation in England
- understanding of the work of the broker as a logical process, set within the context of a contractor-customer relationship
- core skills and knowledge required by the broker, including person-centred planning tools, support plan development, working with the community, and working with providers.

Although brokers may of course choose to work with particular customer groups, the course is designed to provide foundation skills and values applicable to all groups.

## INTENDED PARTICIPANTS

NDTi broker training courses focused on single council areas have proved a very good way to stimulate a local resource of brokers, but have excluded people from other areas. This course aims to address that problem, and so priority for places will be given to individuals who have serious intentions to start working as independent brokers, and are (or will be) working in a situation that does not undermine their independence. This can include staff from independent agencies.

## CERTIFICATION

This training course will include an assessment element, using the evidence from the training and exercises to gauge whether the participants have demonstrated the minimum required skills, knowledge, and values. A certificate will be issued to each participant who reaches the desired standard.

## THE TRAINERS

The training will be delivered jointly by Steve Dowson and Alison Short. With twenty years' professional involvement in the development of individualised funding and brokerage, Steve is known internationally for his expertise on these topics. In the UK, his extensive publications and projects – most recently the NDTi's work for *Skills for Care* to identify the training needs of brokers – have helped to shape the emerging consensus on the broker role. Alison is a skilled person-centred planning facilitator, trainer, and mentor who works also extensively with Helen Sanderson Associates. She has delivered support planning training to a wide range of groups, and has worked as a support broker.

## COST

The cost of the training is £790 + VAT. This covers the training costs with lunches and refreshments, but not overnight accommodation. The NDTi office can advise on local hotel options, if required.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

More information about the training, and an application form, can be found on

<http://www.ndti.org.uk/home.aspx>

Or contact the NDTi office at [office@ndti.org.uk](mailto:office@ndti.org.uk)

