PRESS RELEASE

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NDTi confirms limited use of Personal Budgets to support disabled people to gain employment

New research conducted by the National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi) has confirmed the limited use of social care Personal Budgets to support disabled people to gain or retain paid work and the reasons behind that.

The research, jointly funded by Think Local Act Personal, Remploy, In Control, Wolverhampton City Council, Northamptonshire County Council and NDTi aimed to find out the extent to which people are using social care PBs to purchase support into paid work, and what factors encourage and discourage the use of PBs to help people gain or retain paid work.

A national survey of employment support providers found that only a third of employment support providers had received any income from PBs in the past 18 months and the average number of people using PBs in each organisation was just three. Through the survey and in depth fieldwork in five sites, four clear factors that prevent or discourage greater use of PBs for employment support were identified: low demand from individuals or families; professional attitudes towards employment; the Personal Budget process; and availability of good, evidence-based employment support.

Rich Watts, Programme Lead at the NDTi said:

“Having a job has proven benefits for people, the communities they live in, and for the taxpayer. The new Care Act recognises this by stating work is a Local Authority well-being outcome. As a result, Local Authorities with social service responsibilities must ensure they focus on employment, and PBs are one way to achieve this.”
In response to the findings from the research, NDTi has highlighted four areas that need attention:

1) Improved information advice and guidance to help increase people and families’ knowledge about and aspiration to achieve work by using PBs.
2) Social workers and local authorities reviewing their approaches so that they recognise and give priority to paid work as an important social work outcome.
3) Social work and PB assessments specifically considering work as an outcome, so that funding is identified for it through the RAS/PB process.
4) Commissioners taking market development action to ensure there are evidence based employment services available for people to buy.


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Notes to editors:

For further information about the research in to the use of Personal Budgets for Employment Support and for further information about other NDTi projects and work concerning employment, a full range of accessible summaries called *insights* are available to download from the NDTi website. In particular *insights* 21, 20, 17 and 14 are relevant to the latest research findings [www.ndti.org.uk/publications/ndti-insights](http://www.ndti.org.uk/publications/ndti-insights)


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About NDTi

NDTi is a not-for-profit organisation that promotes inclusion and equality for people who are at risk of exclusion from any part of society – and who may need support to lead a full life.
Examples of the organisations that the NDTi is currently working with include:

- Department of Health
- Department for Education
- Office for Disability Issues
- Joseph Rowntree Foundation
- Skills for Care
- Comic Relief
- Numerous local authorities, NHS and third sector organisations across the UK

Other examples of the recent and current NDTi work include:

- Developing good practice advice in delivering the personalisation agenda for the mental health and older people’s fields
- Developing an Age Discrimination toolkit for the NHS and local government
- Researching the cost effectiveness and outcomes from employment support programmes for people with disabilities
- Delivering the Preparing for Adulthood initiative for disabled children and young people as part of the current SEN reform delivery programme
- Developing evidence models of alternative support options for older people with high support needs
- Exploring the feasibility of Circles of Support as a community based approach for people living with dementia
- Working with the World Health Organisation to help develop alternative approaches to services for people with disabilities in Turkey

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