

A New Approach to Funding PLD Services – A Stamford Forum Initiative: Dec 2007-June 2008

The Stamford Forum is working alongside up to eight local authorities/PCT's for a period of six months beginning in November 2007. The aims of the work are to:

- Try to discover the short, medium and long term trends that are affecting services for people with learning disabilities and how these are being addressed by local authorities and their partners.
- To look at the implications of these trends on current policies and practices with a particular attention on care planning and the growing use of individual budgets and self supported care
- To try to develop new models of collective commissioning and service based costing.
- To try to explore alternatives for managing the market. In particular this will include examining how best to ensure the most effective relationships can be formed with providers of all kinds as well as the establishment of tariffs, clear pricing structures and new approaches to procurement. This will include embracing and extending user involvement strategies.
- To look at the governance arrangements and organisational/cultural change issues that will be required to address in any new framework that could be adopted.
- To try to formulate approaches that could possibly be adopted on a nation wide basis.

The Stamford Forum will offer facilitation, expertise and support to the initiative. It is intended that members of the Forum will work alongside individual authorities and their partners to help initially to map out current trends. A programme of work which will include learning sets and seminars will be put into place that will ultimately lead to the publication of a joint report setting out the initiative's findings.