

# A Rough Guide to Wheelchair Services

Colin Plumb  
Rehabilitation Engineer /Director  
Tamar Rehabilitation Engineering Services Ltd.

# NHS Wheelchair Services

- Initial Referral – GP or Medical Professional
- Re-referral – Anyone
- What to expect
- Eligibility Criteria
- Options – Standard provision / Voucher Scheme / Personal Wheelchair Budget (PWB)
- Personal Health Budget

# General information

- NHS Choices

[www.nhs.uk/conditions/social-care-and-support/mobility-equipment-wheelchairs-scooters/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/social-care-and-support/mobility-equipment-wheelchairs-scooters/)

- National Wheelchair Managers Forum

[www.wheelchairmanagers.nhs.uk](http://www.wheelchairmanagers.nhs.uk)

- NHS England

[www.england.nhs.uk/personal-health-budgets/personal-wheelchair-budgets/](http://www.england.nhs.uk/personal-health-budgets/personal-wheelchair-budgets/)

- Your local Wheelchair Service or Hospital Website

# Wheelchair Voucher Scheme

- Standard Provision
- Partnership Voucher
- Independent Voucher
- Voucher period = 5 years (usually)
- Exclusions – Postural Seating / Pressure Care
- Limitations on equipment offered

# Personal Wheelchair Budgets

Extract from NHS England website:

- Personal wheelchair budgets aim to build and improve upon the wheelchair voucher scheme and are part of a wider programme of work to personalise people's care.
- The personal wheelchair budget model offers a clear framework for clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) to commission wheelchair services that are based on the health and wellbeing outcomes that people want to achieve, as well as care that is integrated around the person and their family. Personal wheelchair budgets enable postural and mobility needs to be included in wider care planning and can support people to access a wider choice of wheelchair. This can be done by pooling the money provided by the NHS to meet all the assessed clinical need with money from a range of health and social care services, as well as Access to Work grants (<https://www.gov.uk/access-to-work>) and funding from the local authority to enable one chair to meet a range of needs .

With a personal wheelchair budget, wheelchair users should expect to have:

# Personal Wheelchair Budgets

- a personalised assessment where they are supported to identify the health and wellbeing outcomes they wish to achieve a care plan which captures the health and wellbeing outcomes identified, which may be part of any wider care plans the person requires for their care, for example an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan  
care that is better integrated, meaning that different agencies work together to support their postural and mobility needs and achieve their health and wellbeing outcomes
- information provided upfront about the amount of money available in their personal wheelchair budget and the options available to them locally to use it  
information about the repair and maintenance of wheelchairs, if the option to purchase a wheelchair outside of the NHS commissioned service is taken.

# Personal Wheelchair Budgets

- Notional

Basically the same as standard NHS provision

- Notional with Contribution

Basically the same as Partnership Voucher

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Party

Basically the same as Independent Voucher

There is no additional money for the PWB scheme

Direct payments are someway off

# Other Options

- Many charities offer grants and support for wheelchairs and mobility equipment
- Newlife [www.newlifecharity.co.uk](http://www.newlifecharity.co.uk)
- Cauldwell Children [www.caudwellchildren.com](http://www.caudwellchildren.com)
- Whizz-Kidz [www.whizz-kidz.org.uk](http://www.whizz-kidz.org.uk)
- Crowdfunding



# Independent Options

- Physiotherapists
- Occupational Therapists
- Rehabilitation Engineers
- Special Seating Suppliers
- Mobility Dealerships

# 24 Hour Postural Management

- How this can influence wheelchair & postural seating choices
- Importance of night positioning
- Opportunities to vary posture
- Hydrotherapy
- Standing or assisted standing
- Play or Recreation

# Postural Seating in Wheelchairs/ Buggies

- Should be considered as part of the 24 hour postural management system
- Challenges
- Correction, Conformity and Comfort
- Keeping up with growth and postural changes
- Function vs. Postural Alignment
- Ease of use

# Questions?



[Email colin@tamar-re-services.co.uk](mailto:colin@tamar-re-services.co.uk)

[www.tamar-re-services.co.uk](http://www.tamar-re-services.co.uk)



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