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Ms Johanne Mears  
North Tyneside LINK  
The Shiremoor Centre  
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Dear Johanne,

Thank you for asking us to comment on the report 'Information for Personal Budgets' by Keith Metcalf for the North Tyneside LINK.

We note that the report is focused on the work of North Tyneside Council and it will be for them to respond to your recommendations.

Members of the LINK may be interested to know the Government has indicated support for personal health budgets in the future. There is currently a pilot programme nationally looking at personal budgets in health. Around half the primary care trusts in England (although not in North Tyneside) are testing out budgets in the NHS and an in-depth study with twenty of these sites is being undertaken. This will form part of a wider evaluation exploring how best to implement personal health budgets, and who will benefit most from them. The pilot programme will run until 2012.

The NHS Commissioning Board will be the organisation who will give direction to NHS bodies how personal health budgets will be taken forward following the pilot. Further information and updates are available from the Department of Health website <http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Personalhealthbudgets/index.htm>

With this in mind, we have noted the recommendations from the report for reference in any future roll-out of personal health budgets locally.

Yours sincerely

**Rachel Chapman**  
**Director of public engagement and communication**