

# Shropshire Pilot should give control to staff and care users..... progress to date

## Ruby Hartshorn of Shropshire Disability Network reports on progress to date with this pilot

Shropshire Disability Network reported in April this year ([Read the background here](#)) that Shropshire has been chosen as one of 6 local authorities across England to take part in this Social Work Practice Pilot. Two counties have already gone live - Shropshire has been doing a lot of work on their project and will be live at the very latest by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012.

## So what's it all about? Shropshire has given their pilot the appropriate name [“People2People”](#)

The pilot will look at innovative ways of providing social work support that will create new opportunities for individuals to become more active and independent. As reported earlier Shropshire will focus **on older people, people with learning disabilities and physical disabilities** and the pilot will be overseen by The Social Care Institute of Excellence on behalf of the Department of Health.

As a person who falls into the category of physical disabilities I have been very fortunate to have been asked to attend a few meetings on the setting up of this pilot for Shropshire. Sarah Dillon who has been lead in planning People2People said *“This is a great step forward for Shropshire. It gives us the opportunity to develop an independent social work practice in Shropshire that will be a social enterprise and a not for profit organisation, providing an assessment and care management service for older people, people with a physical disability and those with learning disabilities”*

Several staff appointments have been made, some from within Social Care, these appointees being seconded to this Pilot for 2 years and are guaranteed a post at the end of it whatever the outcome of this pilot. The importance of this scheme also means we have a number of people working within it from outside Social Care.

People2People will be owned and managed by its staff with individuals who use the service being “key” to how the practice develops in the future, with the purpose of testing a different approach to assessment, care management and planning support.

From meetings I have attended, and as mentioned in many documents on Social Care, we can no longer accept that if you receive care once, you are going to have care for life. This is not a realistic option and we have to move to a model where care is given when needed but the aim is to make the individual independent again as soon as possible. Social care services have a duty to provide care for people who meet the Fair Access to Care criteria. However it is recognized many people need care for short periods of time i.e. on discharge of hospital and, with the right intervention in place from day one ie physio, Occupational Therapy, or the support of a carer;; to name a few of many options, amazing results can be achieved on the road back to independence.

Support at the initial stage when a person's confidence may have been knocked, with increased initial support by the right people at the right time, independence can be regained/increased. By encouraging & nurturing people to take part in activities they used to do before accident/illness changed life's path etc you can go a long way to preventing long term care. The importance being that those most vulnerable, those who need help will get it when it is absolutely necessary-& there is no other way.

People2People will actively work to build independence thereby reducing an individual's reliance upon others. It is a known fact that at the moment it takes a minimum of 6 weeks to get a care package in place, People2People will be focused on help now - when you need it - as it is recognized the 6 week delay period can zap confidence, hamper progression in a person's recovery creating extra needs that it is hoped can be avoided.

All referrals undertaken by this People2People practice will carry out assessments on behalf of Shropshire Council in an outcome focused way .

SDN hopes to keep track of this Pilot and inform our members on how it progresses-so watch this space for further information.

**Ruby Hartshorn**

Shropshire Disability Network Management Committee member