

Dear

I am writing to tell you about the changes taking place in social care which will give you more choice and control over the support and care you need.

The Government has introduced a new system for social care called Self Directed Support. The aim of this new system is for us, as a local authority, to let you know how much money is available to spend on the care and support you need and, for you or the person who needs support, to decide – if you want to – how your needs can be best met.

This could be either by using the services you are currently receiving and provided by social services, or to use the sum of money available to purchase alternative services that will give you the support you need.

The attached Fact Sheet explains more about how Self Directed Support works.

In Buckinghamshire we have been introducing the new system over the last year with some of our clients and from next April (2010) all our clients who have not changed to the new system will transfer at the time of their review.

The care manager who does your review will be able to explain the changes in detail with you at that time.

As part of the new system Buckinghamshire County Council are reviewing all the services that have previously been offered for social care. This is to make sure that the services we can continue to provide are of good quality and provide the best value for money within the resources available to us – and that they are what our clients actually want.

This will include services such as, for example, Day Care and Home Care, and we will be consulting with those who use our services about any changes that might affect them or their carers.

Please be assured that we will keep you informed and consulted about changes that might affect you. This letter is simply to let you know of changes that will happen during the coming year and that there will be support available for people to talk to nearer the time.

If you do have any immediate concerns or would like more information you can telephone us on 0845 370 8090 (charges are at 'local rate' from your landline; or you can find out more by going to our website www.buckscc.gov.uk , or by email to selfdirectedsupport@buckscc.gov.uk

Yours sincerely



Gill Manning-Smith
Self Directed Support Leader
Adults & Family Wellbeing

If you already know about Self Directed Support, or have already transferred to the system please accept my apologies for bothering you again.

If you need this information in a different format please let us know.