

Voluntary**Action**Islington

Policy Briefing - Community Budgets

March 2011

The context

Nationally around £8 billion per year is spent dealing with the complex needs of around 120,000 families – an average of £67,000 per family. Many statutory and community groups provide services to these families, but may duplicate support and use resources inefficiently. Families are left to deal with multiple organisations and contacts.

What is a community budget?

Islington is one of 16 local areas piloting the Government's community budgets programme. It is a way of helping statutory partners (council, NHS, Police, etc.) invest in agreed outcomes for families with complex needs. It will free up resources to make co-ordinated decisions about how to meet the needs of families. Services will be able to intervene collectively, reducing duplication and waste.

How is this set up in Islington?

In Islington the community budgets programme is managed through Children's Services. The practical delivery is through a new Families Outreach Support Service, offering integrated support, minimising the contact families have to make with multiple agencies. This is delivered through locality based multi-agency teams.

Does this mean more money?

No. The aim of community budgets is to allow statutory organisations more control over how they use existing resources to meet need. It's about using money more efficiently and effectively, while providing a better service for families.

What does this mean for local voluntary and community organisations?

The aim of the service is to draw on expertise and resources across the Borough. If your organisation works with parents or children you could help shape the service.

More information:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1748111>

For questions, comments or a copy of the consultation document please contact:

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