

# Workshop Two – Feedback

The journey to a true Pooled Budget, setting up and  
overcoming barriers

14.25 – 14.35



# Notes from the discussion of Workshop Two (1/2)

The journey to a true Pooled Budget, setting up and overcoming barriers

- **There are different cash/VAT rules for spending in CCGS and LAs; financial priorities are important**
- LA may be best placed to hold the budget as they have more flexibility
- What about shared posts across CCGs/LAs in regards to the administration of a pooled budget?
- **Trust and relationships between the two organisations is vital – this has to be evidenced**
  - Joint funded posts are a way of demonstrating this
- Radical review of governance arrangements is necessary in order to determine the eligibility of a functioning true pooled budget
- It is very time consuming to manage continuous change across two organisations; the viability of a pooled budget has to be considered in this context
- The climate of austerity: is it the best time to do health and social care integrations?
- Is now the time to bring forward areas of good practice in regards to pooled budgets?
- Some people look like ‘good practice’ and when you talk to them they are not more progressed than other areas. Instead, good practice should be ‘emerging practice’ - how areas are exemplary of new or changing models and how that ‘first step’ can benefit other areas. This is true when it comes to demonstrating the usefulness of pooled budgets
- **Not getting too hung up on legal or financial matters, but in the actual delivery of services is important**
- How do we make this work from a financial, legal, and contractual point of view?
- It would help to be able to describe the barriers (both potential and existing), and how others have overcome these
- There isn’t an instruction manual - “you have to be brave”
- **Pooled budget = a mechanism. The focus is using mechanisms like pooled budgets to deliver integrated health and social care services**

# Notes from the discussion of Workshop Two (2/2)

The journey to a true Pooled Budget, setting up and overcoming barriers

- **Document risks, agreements, etc., as a way of ‘putting them to rest’, i.e. getting to a better place in our relationships**
- There is always an anxiety about doing something new and not knowing whether or not it will work
- **Focus should always be on delivery, but basics are always needed.** For example: who pays for OT? What’s the identity/culture around a pooled budget?
- We all try to reduce the amount of times we transfer money and try to reduce the money that we transfer; does a pooled budget reduce this barrier, or increase it?
- **We have to set the direction of travel and the vision, be ambitious, and take small steps forward**
- **It’s not about whether we do or do not have money, but about how we maximise the resources to deliver what we are meant to deliver**
- **Pooled budgets are a means to an end: they are not the outcome/the end in themselves**
- **Need to be careful with bureaucracy: is it driving the practice, or just enabling it? It needs to be able to deliver better outcomes**
- Numbers, or narrative?
- Is the BCF just about BCF? The use of pooled budgets seems to blur this line
- No risk or overspend should be considered as ‘extra’ money
- Risk sharing forms part of a dialogue
- The LA’s governance makes it easier to hold the budget, but ultimately the holder is dependent on what is best for the specific areas