

Kate Rush

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Personal Profile

An excellent facilitator and passionate communicator with a persuasive and enthusiastic manner and who is professionally well respected within the sector of **social care personal budgets and brokerage**. Is passionate and skilled in project management and in working with a wide range of stakeholders to effect change and transformation within service provision and usage. Has strong rapport-building skills and an open and positive style. Demonstrates the balance of empathy, determination and drive to make change happen.

Key Skills & Knowledge

- Professional knowledge of implementing Self Directed Support and support brokerage - providing independence, flexibility and control for individuals in receipt of social care personal budgets.
- Transformation of strategic practice and policy analysis that shaped organisational thinking to ensure the value of individual choice and preference was instigated, implemented and maintained.
- Continual research and analysis of national policy and best practice and awareness of development in the field taken from a range of sources including *inControl*, *National Brokerage Network*, *Helen Sanderson Associates*.
- Experienced in working directly with a range of partner organisations within the care sector and with the ability to develop strong and effective relationships with agencies in the statutory, voluntary and primary health sectors.
- Has achieved Practitioner Level Prince2 Project Management.
- Production of strategic reports and briefing documents and provision of strategic policy and advice to the Directorate and wider team.
- Tendering process and procedures for tenders up to £100K.
- Expert user of Microsoft office products including Excel and Word.

Selected Key Achievements

Responsible for the transformation of organisational thinking under the requirements of the Putting People First agenda within Nottingham. Integral to the development of policy and guidance associated with the Self-Directed Support change programme.

Supported the development of support brokerage, potentially impacting on over 8,000 individuals within Nottingham, enabling them to purchase services to meet their own care and social support requirements within a £7 million budget.

Gained user participation and other stakeholder involvement to identify needs to shape service specifications and policy development, using a co-production approach.

Has been recognised as having “expert knowledge” and has been asked to give presentations to partner organisations. Has led question and answer sessions with audiences of 100+ users and stakeholders. Has handled all “FAQs” stemming from individual enquiries re Self Directed Support.

Development of specification and tender for “SupportNet”, a nationally recognised project aiming to bring communities together and increase independence and social networks of vulnerable individuals.

Career History

Policy & Project Officer – Self-Directed Support Change Team Nottingham City Council

2008 – 2011

A fixed-term contract. Responsible for the project management and implementation of the Self-Directed Support change programme. Responsible for raising awareness and liaison with other agencies within the City and County of Nottingham and engaging with service users and providers to understand the requirements of the Putting People First agenda, which required all English councils to achieve 30% of personal budget use by April 2011. Integral to the role were issues surrounding performance, commissioning, finance, HR and workforce development.

Previous Career History

Policy Officer (SO2/PO1) 2006 - 2008
Housing Support Strategy, Adult Support and Health
Nottingham City Council

Commissioning Officer (A&C grade 5) 2003 - 2006
Nottingham City Primary Care Trust

Set up a charity focusing on drug & alcohol rehabilitation, including drawing up of constitution and achieving charitable status. Acted in a Treasurer capacity for the charity, including set-up of procedures for managing accounts and petty cash.

Has a full work history and has undertaken a range of previous roles that has provided **Managerial Experience at Operational and Strategic level** within non-social care organisations.

Continual Professional Development

Brokerage Practitioner Course, National Brokerage Network 2010

PRINCE2 Project Management Foundation & Practitioner Level 2008

BA (Joint Hons) English & Philosophy 2:1 1989
University of Lancaster

Sector-Specific Training 2006 – 2011

- Direct Payments, Nottingham City Council
- Business Planning for the Voluntary Sector, Nottingham CVS
- The Mental Capacity Act, Ann Craft Trust
- Local Authority Agreements & Health Improvement, Local Government Information Unit