Adult Social Care

PERSONAL BUDGETS

HARTLEPOOL
BOROUGH COUNCIL

If you are eligible for support from the council then a Personal Budget allows you to spend the money allocated for that support in a way that best suits you to stay as independent as possible.

If you are eligible for a Personal Budget we will ask you to develop a Support Plan. A Support Plan shows how you will spend your Personal Budget to get the support you need. You can work with a family member, friend, care manager or broker to develop your Support Plan.

Once everyone has agreed to the Support Plan, we will pay the agreed amount to you to cover your care and support needs.

How does it work?

There are a number of ways you can use your Personal Budget.

- You can ask the council to spend your Personal Budget and organise your support for you.
- You can ask them to give you all or part of your Personal Budget money to you in the form of a Direct Payment.
- A Direct Payment is money which adult social are pays into a person's bank account for you to spend on a specific item or activity identified in your Support Plan.
- You can use a broker or approved person to manage your Personal Budget.

Whichever method you choose your support plan, will show how the personal budget will be used to meet your needs.

If you choose to have a direct payment you will need to sign both the plan and a Direct Payment Agreement - a contract with the Council - outlining your responsibilities.

What can you use your Personal Budget for?

The kinds of support which might be paid for using your Personal Budget include:

- Support in your own home (including support with washing or dressing yourself, or completing household tasks).
- Support to access healthy meals.
- Support with getting out and about, meeting people, and staying active.
- Support in accessing employment, education and training.
- Additional support which will allow a relative or friend to take a break from looking after you.

For more information on employing a Personal Assistant - see Factsheet: *Becoming an Employer*.

Case Study: Simon's Story

Simon has had multiple Sclerosis for the past five years. He has had support from the council for the last two years because his condition has got worse. At a review, the council offered Simon a Personal Budget. In the past, home are workers came to Simon's home to help him get up and shower. He went to a say centre three days a week. The rest of the time, Simon was at home with his wife and children.

Simon told his social worker that he liked his team of home care staff - they were really consistent. However, he was very bored with the day service. He thought he could do far more with this day, like attending a computer course.

Simon decided that his social worker could manage his Personal Budget - the part that paid for home care support and two days of day service. The money for the third day service day would come to Simon as a Direct Payment. He would use this money to employ his own personal assistant to help him go on a college course.

Simon said that if he couldn't find a suitable assistant he could use an agency for support. He also said that, if this worked well, he may want to take more hours as a direct payment and less day support or vice versa. The choice was his.

HOW TO CONTACT THE SUPPORT HUB

If you, or someone you care for - or a relative or friend - is finding life a bit difficult at the moment and would like to talk about it, contact our Support Hub - our gateway to information, advice, support and care.

Visit the Support Hub at **Community Hub Central**, York Road, TS26 9DE between 10am - 4pm Monday to Friday

Call **01429 272905** between 8.30am - 5pm Monday - Thursday. 8.30am - 4.30pm on a Friday.

Email **helping@hartlepool.gov.uk**

We will connect you to the things that will help you get on with your life.

If you are **worried about someone being abused or neglected**, or if you need **information or support with hospital discharge** please contact:

The Integrated Single Point of Access (iSPA)
You can contact the iSPA Monday - Thursday 8.30am - 5pm, Friday 8.30am - 4.30pm

01429 803100

ispa@hartlepool.gov.uk

07977709900 *(Relay UK)*

How to get help if we are closed

If you need urgent help when our offices are closed, you can contact the **Emergency Duty Team** on **01642 524522**