

Personal Budgets

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 care 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 Person Budget. In the past, home care 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 his 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.

» Contact us

You can contact the Early Intervention Team by letter, telephone, text, or email. If English is not your first language, we can provide a translation service.

» Our opening times

We open at 8:30am every weekday. We close at 5:00pm from Monday to Thursday. On Fridays we close at 4:30pm.



Telephone: 01429 523390



Text Service: 60006 (start your text with HBC)



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» About this factsheet

This factsheet tells you about Personal Budgets. We issued this factsheet in June 2015 and updated it in April 2018. We will check the information is up to date in April 2020.



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