

Your Guide on Personal Budgets for people with a learning disability





City of Westminster

Personal Budgets

Personal Budget is a sum of money that helps to plan your own support. This money comes from social services.

You can choose;

To leave this sum of money with the Council and we will arrange the support for your needs.

Or

You can have money paid direct to you. You can use it to arrange your own support.

Or

You can choose someone else to do this for you. This can be a relative or other trusted person or an organisation that provides this service.



Direct Payments

A Direct Payment is a sum of money that you can have to help you plan your own service. You can employ a personal assistant or buy services to help you with personal care, day care or a short break.



What happens with my support?



Having the support in the way you want can help you;

To make sure you can live a good life by having flexible support in the way you want;



- Live independently
- Stay healthy
- To have more say about your life
- To be equal and the same as other people
- To be respected



- The council will decide how much money you can have to meet your needs.



- Your case manager or people who support you will be able to help if there are any changes to what you want to do.

Agree Plan



Your case manager will look at your support plan this will have say what you want to spend your money on to support your needs. Your support plan will go to the Funding Panel. The people on the Funding Panel will look at your plan to see if it helps you and keeps you safe.

Making your Plan happen



You and your case manager, together will talk about your support plan before this is action.

You can change the services or support that you use, if you want.



You can use your money to employ your own workers. They have to follow legal employment rules.

Review and Learn



When your support plan is complete you will sign this contract with council to show that your Personal Budget has started.

This means that you and the council both agree with your support plan and you will be responsible for what happens to the budget.



Your case manager will still look at your plans and your needs with you.

What can you spend your Personal Budget on?



You can spend a Personal Budget on services that meets your needs. This may include someone to support you with; equipment, activities, membership fees, transport, training and accommodation. These are just a few examples.

Your support plan would already say how you are going to spend the money.



If you want to spend it on different things, you need to talk to your case manager.

What you can not spend your money on?



You cannot spend your Personal Budget on anything illegal or an activity that could put you at risk like gambling. This is a serious offence.



Cigarettes, alcohol, sweets, food, clothes and household bills should not be paid for from your Personal Budget.



You can pay people or services to support you. You will have to follow legal employment rules.

If you are not sure of your rights, speak to your case manager.

What happens if my money runs out?



You cannot over spend your budget. The Council will not give you more money unless the Funding Panel has agreed to this in advance.

If you think your money is not enough. You will need to talk to your case manager immediately so your support plan can be looked at again.

What happens if I do not spend all my Personal Budget?



If you have some money left over, check with your case manager. If there is a lot of money this will be paid back to the Council.



What happens if my needs change?

If your needs change at any time, talk to your case manager can help you.



What happens if I break the rules?

If you spend your money on something you should not or illegal you will be asked to repay the money that you have used to your Council.

When is my review and who is it with?



Your Personal Budget will be reviewed every year. If there is a need to have a review sooner talk to your case manager to plan the meeting. You can invite who you want to be there.





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