

your**life** your**care** your**choice**

Personal Budgets



What is a Personal Budget?

This guide tells you about Personal Budgets, what they are and how to arrange one.



Doncaster
Metropolitan Borough Council

www.doncaster.gov.uk/carers



What is a Personal Budget?

A Personal Budget is where you can choose the services that you need to help you.

You will be told how much money you can spend on the care and support that you need.

This money is known as your 'Personal Budget'.

Who can have a Personal Budget?

You can have a Personal Budget if;

- You are an adult (18+) and you have a physical disability.
- You are an adult (18+) and you have a learning disability.
- You are an older person who is aged 60/65 or over.



How do I get a Personal Budget?

To be able to get a Personal Budget the Council will decide if you need support.

The Council does this using guidelines from the government. The more needs you have, the more money you will need to help you. If your needs are low you may not get any money.



Our fact sheet 'Fair Access to Care Services' will tell you how the Council decides who can have a personal budget. This can be found on the Council website at www.doncaster.gov.uk/personalbudget or you can get one from our Adult Contact Team, the contact details on the back page.



You will need to fill in a questionnaire

You will be asked:

- What help you need with your personal care
- The support you need with day to day living
- The support you need to keep you safe
- The things you do or would like to do in your community.



It doesn't matter if you fill in the questionnaire or ask someone to help you. When it has been filled in, we will visit you to collect it and then we can work out how much money you need.

Next, you need to make a **support plan**. This will tell us how you are going to use the money and the kind of support you would like.

You can do this on your own or ask someone to help you.



When we ask you to make your support plan we will give you a guide that will help you think about what support you would like.

Your support plan will then be agreed by your social care worker.



What needs to be in my Support Plan?

When you make your support plan, you need to think about what you said in your questionnaire and think carefully about what support you need to make your life better.



Most of the changes will only work with the help and support of family, friends and services.

The support plan will help everyone work out who needs to do what to help make your life better.

Your plan should show how you are going to meet your needs and what support you need to help you.





What can my Personal Budget pay for?

There are many different things you can spend your budget on.

For Example;



- You might employ a Personal Assistant. These can be friends or a member of your family. They can **NOT** be family members who live with you. (parents/brother/sister...etc)
- Different bits of equipment that help you to be independent.
- You can buy support from agencies. (not just the Council)



If you talk to someone about what you need, then it may help you choose what to buy.

What can't I buy?

You can't spend your Personal Budget on;



- Paying for a Residential Care home or Nursing home.
- Paying for support from a person who might not help to keep you safe.

If you are not sure what you can't spend your Personal Budget on, then you can ask someone for help.



Will I have to pay anything?

If you have enough money you might have to pay some money in to your personal budget.

We will also check that you get all the benefits you can.



Who will manage my Personal Budget?

- YOU

The money for your services can be paid to you, if you would like to manage your own money and support. This means that you have to make sure that you pay for your support. You can have help from an Independent support agency.



- AN AGENT

This is when someone else manages the money for you. An agent can be a family member or friend.



- THE COUNCIL

A care manager works for the council, they will plan with you and arrange the support that you need and make sure that it is paid.

If you think that a care manager is the right person to help you then the council will look after the money and use it to pay for the support you need.



What checks will there be on what I have spent?

If you or an agent are paid the money from your personal budget then you will need to fill in a financial return form to show the council what you have spent.

Also a social care worker will visit you to review the support you are getting.

The review will look at:

- What's working well
- Things that might need to change



What if my needs change?

If your needs change you might want to change your support plan.

You can do this without talking to the council as long as the cost of the support does not go over your personal budget.

If you are not sure, then you can always ask for help.

If you have more or less needs, then you will need to look at your personal budget assessment and you should talk to your social care worker.





For more information

- You can talk to your social care worker if you already have one
- You can contact one of our teams using the contact details below:

Adult Contact Team

To see or speak to staff without an appointment, visit the Council House or call on the below number.

Times: Monday to Friday, 8.30am - 5pm
Telephone: 01302 737391
Textphone: 01302 737796
Fax: 01302 736939
E-mail: adultcontactteam@doncaster.gov.uk
Write to: Doncaster Council, Adult Contact Team,
PO Box 251, The Council House, College Road,
Doncaster DN1 3AD.

Learning Disabilities Service

Telephone: 01302 737855
Fax: 01302 737050
Write to: Barclay Court, Heavens Walk, Doncaster, DN4 5HZ

Services for deaf and visually impaired people

Voice/Textphone: 01302 737701
Fax: 01302 736937
SMS: 07979 031116
Write to: Sensory Team, PO Box 251, The Council House,
College Road, Doncaster DN1 3DA.



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