

Personal Budgets



What is a Personal Budget?

Personal Budgets are a new way of giving more choice and control to people who receive funding for social care needs, such as:

- Managing daily routines
- Involvement in the community
- Giving a carer a respite break
- Promoting independence

Personal Budgets will make it clear how much funding is available to spend on your support. It will also give you more flexibility on how you use the funding to meet your social care needs.

How do I get a Personal Budget?

First you have an assessment to see if you can get support from social care.

You complete the self-assessment section and a care manager will complete their part of the assessment form. You can get help to complete the form if you need it. You will then be told if you can get social care support.

If you can get support your care manager will work out how much funding you can have for your support needs and will tell you the weekly amount of funding available.

You will then produce a support plan, which will look at how you want to use the funding to meet your needs and who you want to support you.

There will be help available, if you need it to complete the support plan.

How can a Personal Budget be used?

You can use the funding to arrange your own support by employing a personal assistant or agency through Direct Payments.

Alternatively, you may want the council to arrange support for you.

If you prefer you can have a mixture of some support through Direct Payments and some services arranged by the council.

The funding can be used for activities that you want to do; like going to the cinema, a concert, or a sporting event.

Assistive technology or equipment can also be bought to help your independence.



Here are some examples of how people have used their Personal Budgets.

Through Personal Budgets a number of people with learning disabilities are choosing to arrange respite care for carers, in a different way to traditional residential care respite.

This includes going to assisted holiday venues, having holiday breaks with paid carers or flexibly having greater respite support over a number of weeks.

- A young man with a physical disability was interested in gaining employment. The Personal Budgets support broker gave information about support available at work. This helped him to secure 20 hours per week employment at a local call centre. He was advised about 'Access to Work', a government scheme which helps people in or moving to paid employment overcome obstacles related to their disability and this gave him confidence to obtain employment.
- Rachel is blind and struggles to cook using a hob and oven. In the past she would have been offered meals on wheels. She wanted to have more independence in the kitchen so she bought a talking microwave, which gives voice prompts and verbal timing instructions.

■ Prakesh has a physical disability and had previously been offered the opportunity to attend a traditional day centre in order to help reduce social isolation. However he wanted to undertake more personal activities. He used his Personal Budget to employ a personal assistant who supports him to attend a gym, go swimming, visit the cinema and to go to the temple to pray.



■ Lucy is a young mother with three teenage children. Her husband is her full time informal carer, as well as in full time work. Caring for Lucy had put strains on the rest of the family. Personal Budgets have helped them by allowing Lucy to employ personal assistants to carry out some personal and domestic support tasks. They now have more time to enjoy quality time together as a family. Lucy also feels that she can contribute more towards the children's upbringing and other parental responsibilities.





- Matthew is an older person with a learning disability. He lives in a council flat. He likes to go bowling, play snooker and visit his friends at an evening support group in the city centre. Through Personal Budgets he has a detailed support plan showing what is important to him and how he wants to be supported to remain independent. A supported living provider, contracted by the council, is providing the support he wants and he is happy with this.
- Andy looks after his 83 year mother who has dementia. He says: “My mum’s needs change, and the services we buy through the Personal Budget can change with them and fit around us”. His mother’s Personal Budget allows Andy to buy help around the house, which was not previously possible under the old care plan. This more flexible approach allows them to exercise more choice and control, and Andy’s mother feels that she has a better quality of life.





- George has struggled with mental health difficulties since he was sixteen. Last year, his marriage broke up, and he was admitted as an inpatient in a psychiatric hospital. George then used some of his Personal Budget to pay for a break. The break was cheaper than going into a residential home. It lifted George's spirits and helped him to think about what he wanted in his life, and in his support plan. His Personal Budget has helped him to start rebuilding his life: he's been able to purchase art materials and gets support with meeting new people.

Where to get in touch with us

1 Grey Friars, Leicester LE1 5PH

☎ 0116 252 7004.

Minicom/TexBox 0116 252 7011

Opening hours: Monday-Friday
9.00am-4.00pm
(no appointment needed)

Telephone callers: Monday-Thursday
8.30am-5.00pm
Friday 8.30am-4.30pm

More information about social care services can be found on the council's website at www.leicester.gov.uk/adultsocialcare.



If you need help reading this publication, or require it in a different format, please contact (0116) 252 7004

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নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করুন।

આ પ્રકાશન વાંચવામાં જે તમને મદદ જેઈતી હોય અથવા એને તમારે જુદા રૂપમાં જેઈતું હોય તો, મહેરબાની કરી હાઉસિંગ ડિપાર્ટમેન્ટનો (0116) 252 7004 ઉપર સંપર્ક કરો.

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