

What is a personal budget?

When you have completed your person-led assessment you will be told how much money we will give you to meet your needs. This sum of money is called a personal budget.

We work out how much this will be through a Resource Allocation System. The Resource Allocation System allocates you a pot of money, based on your answers to the questions in your person-led assessment. This pot of money is known as an Indicative Personal Budget and is a national amount that shows you how much your Actual Personal Budget is likely to be. You will then work by yourself or with the help of a Care Navigator, family or friends, to plan the types of support and services you wish to buy and write this up in your support plan. Once you have planned your support you will know how much your Actual Personal Budget will be. You may have to make a financial contribution to the cost of your support. We will work with you to find out how much this could be.

Why use a Resource Allocation System?

We use a Resource Allocation System to allocate resources as it is based on a person's level of needs - so everyone with the same needs will initially be allocated the same amount of money.

This approach ensures that we allocate resources fairly to everyone who is eligible for support. Your personal budget should be used to meet your social care needs which will have been identified as part of the assessment process. When you

start thinking about how you would like your social care needs to be met and the services you would like to access you will need to decide how you would like to manage your personal budget.

Different ways to manage your personal budget

You can choose from a range of options:

- **Direct payment** – this is a sum of money we will give you to manage your support needs. To help you with putting your services in place, an Independent Living Team advisor will support you through the process. If you take a direct payment you will be able to employ a personal assistant, use a care agency the Council doesn't contract with or purchase equipment to support you in your daily living.
- **Virtual budget** – this is when you ask the council to manage your personal budget on your behalf. If you choose a virtual budget we will work with you to put the services you choose in place. If you take a virtual budget the council will be able to purchase support services from their providers including home care and day care services.
- **Mixed approach** – this is when you would like to take some of your personal budget as a direct payment and the rest as a managed account. Again we will provide you with all the support you need to put your support arrangements in place.

Respite Personal Budget

As part of the assessment process you will be informed if you are eligible for respite care. If you are eligible you will be allocated a number of days which will be calculated as a personal budget.

As with your personal budget for your day to day support needs you can choose how you would like to access your respite budget, this could be as a direct payment, virtual budget or a mixed approach. The option you take will depend on how you would like to use your respite budget.

Can I appeal any decisions around my personal budget?

You can appeal at any stage of the assessment process. If you feel your personal budget will not meet your needs or you feel you can not afford your contribution you should write to us clearly stating that you wish to appeal giving any information you feel is relevant.

More information

For more information call Gateway to care on **01484 414933** or email gatewaytocare@kirklees.gov.uk

