

introduction to personal budgets

YOU'RE the best person to decide what's right for you. A personal budget gives you more choice and control over the kind of social care support you use – and how it is delivered.

A personal budget is money from the council for you to spend on the support you need to help you live more independently.

Personal budgets can be used to buy support from both the council and other providers. Your money can be spent creatively, mixing and matching services from different organisations, and tailoring your support to your individual preferences.

Do I have to manage my budget myself?

If you want to manage your budget and arrange your support yourself, you can. But if you'd prefer to have services provided and your budget managed by the council, that's OK too. There are lots of ways things can be organised to meet your needs.

How do I get one?

Anyone 18 or over, who is living in the community and eligible for social care, can ask for an assessment for a personal budget. It's a fairly straightforward process, led by you. Your care manager will help you, and you can involve friends, family and carers at each stage, if you want to.

How much will the budget be?

That depends on your social care needs – which you will identify when you do your assessment.

- Find out more in the factsheets '*How can I receive my personal budget?*' and '*What is a self-directed assessment?*' – information on how to get copies is overleaf.

Turn over
for further
information



Find out more about personal budgets and directing your own support

personal budgets and employing PAs

- **Fact sheets** – find the rest of the series at www.leeds.gov.uk/personal_budgets
- **Booklet: *Your Personal Budget*** – more detail about the different steps to getting a personal budget.
- **Short film: *Personal Budgets in Leeds*** – people in Leeds talk about using personal budgets to live more independently. Watch it online at www.leeds.gov.uk/personal_budgets.
- **Peer support** – talk to people who already use a personal budget! Contact Free to Live, the Personal Budgets Peer Support Network, on 0113 214 3594 or visit their website at www.freetoliveleeds.org.
- **Employing personal assistants (PAs)** – if you're going to be recruiting and employing your own PAs, ask for a copy of the *Leeds Guide to Becoming an Employer*. If you're using an agency, see 'Choosing services and support', below.
- **Further information** – visit the council's website www.leeds.gov.uk/personal_budgets for loads more information including frequently asked questions, a glossary of terms, and more.

No web access?
No problem. You can get copies of all booklets, fact sheets and other information from your care manager, or by phoning Customer Services on 0113 222 4401.

choosing services and support

- Visit www.leedsdirectory.org to find local services online. Search by service, postcode or the area where you live. Or phone the Directory Helpline on 0113 391 8333 for advice or a paper copy.
- **Booklet: *Guide to Buying Services and Support*** – tips on making the most of your budget when dealing with suppliers.

Collect the factsheet series!

1 Introduction to personal budgets ▶

2 What is a self-directed assessment? ▶

3 What is a resource allocation system? ▶

4 What is a support plan? ▶

5 How can I receive my personal budget? ▶

6 Using a personal assistant (PA) ▶

7 Buying services and support ▶

8 Keeping safe and managing risks ▶

9 Review: seeing how it's working ▶