

keeping safe and managing risks

Your personal budget is designed to give you greater independence, but this may lead to some risks too. When you put together your support plan you'll need to understand what kind of risks there may be and how you will manage them ...

Risks are part of life. As free individuals we all have the right to take reasonable risks. But we need to be careful that our decisions do not endanger us, or anyone else.

When you put together your support plan, describing how you will use your personal budget to meet your eligible needs, your care manager will discuss with you how you will keep yourself and those around you safe and well.

Examples of risks and how they might be managed

- Your personal assistant needs to lift or move you, but they are not trained to do it properly. *Make sure they get the right training before they start in this role.*
- Someone who is supporting you with finances uses your money for something that you haven't agreed. *Make sure anyone helping you is trustworthy. Personal assistants and paid carers should always have a police check before they start working with you. It's your responsibility to let the council know about any problems managing your budget as soon as they happen, so we can work with you to resolve the issue.*
- You're not always in control of your actions, and could hurt or frighten someone who is supporting you. *Make sure you are supported by people who are appropriately trained and experienced in supporting someone with your needs. Talk through likely 'trigger' situations with them in advance and discuss ways of dealing with these. Make sure they can always call on someone else for extra help at these times.*
- You are frightened by someone who is caring for you. *Make sure you know who you would talk to if this should happen. Always ensure anyone supporting you has a police check. Your care manager can advise you about this.*
- To find out more, read the factsheet 'Buying services and support' – information on how to get copies is overleaf.
- Visit www.leedsadultprotection.net for more information about keeping safe from abuse.

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.

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 ▶
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- 9 Review: seeing how it's working ▶

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.