

# Personal budgets

an easy read guide





## What is a personal budget?

A **personal budget** is the money that the Council gives you to pay for your care and support



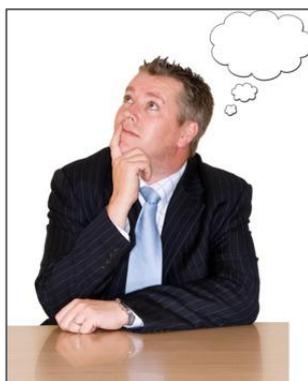
## Who can have a personal budget?

Anyone who has the right to care and support can have a personal budget



We call this being **eligible**

Being **eligible** means being entitled to or having the right to something



## How does the Council decide if I can have a personal budget?

A social worker does an assessment of your needs



If you have already had an assessment and your needs have changed, the social worker will do what is called a **review**



A **review** is where we meet with you and look again at your care needs to find out



- what's working well
- what's not working
- what needs to change



What is an assessment?

An assessment is when you meet with a social worker to look at what care and support you need to live your life well and be safe



Your family carers can also come to this meeting



We can only give a personal budget to those people who need the most support and have **high** or **very high** needs



You might not need support with everything but you can still get support to do some things

If you do **not** have the right to care and support from the Council, we will tell you where else you can go for help



What happens next?

After your assessment, the social worker looks at your needs and decides if you have the right to support



If you have the right to support, the social worker works out how much it might cost



The social worker has to find out how much money and savings you have



This is so we can work out if you will have to pay some of the money for your care and support



## Your support plan

Your social worker will then make a **support plan**

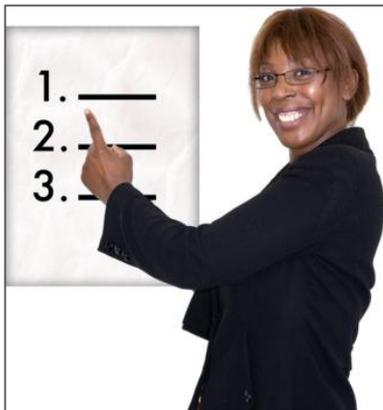
Your support plan will say



- what's important to you in your life



- what things you would like to do



- how your care and support will meet your needs

- what results you should get from your support



When your support plan has been agreed, we will know how much is in your personal budget

## Remember...



- not all support costs money
- some activities are free



- you can share the cost of support with other people who want to do the same things as you



- this is called **pooling budgets**



## Who looks after my personal budget?

There are different ways of looking after your personal budget



- you can look after the money yourself



- a family member or someone you trust can look after the money

- the Council can look after the money for you



You will have as much choice and control as possible over how your money is spent to make your life better



You can choose the support and services that best meet

- your needs
- the results we've agreed with you



You can take all or part of your personal budget as a **direct payment**

This means that you get the money to pay for the care yourself

The Council has asked



- PSiC – Personalisation Support in Camden **for people under the age of 65**



- Age UK Camden **for people aged 65 or older**



to offer extra support with direct payments for people and their families



You can see what they offer by going to their websites or giving them a call

Contact details are at the end of this guide



What about support with your transport?

The assessment will ask If you need support with transport



If you need a person to go with you on transport, the social worker can put the cost of this support in your personal budget



Your personal budget will not have money for



- public transport - where people have a Freedom Pass they can use this to get around



- a car your family has bought to help you to get about



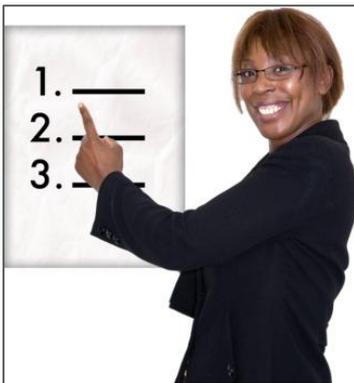
- Council transport services (which also use taxi companies)



The Council will not pay for your transport but it can pay if you need support with your transport



How much is my personal budget?



Social workers will tell you how much all the things in the personal budget cost and how they worked it out

Social workers will tell you this as part of your yearly review



If you would like a personal budget you will need to talk with a social worker



How can I find out more?



Call the **duty social worker** at CLDS,  
Camden learning disabilities service  
**020 79 74 37 37**

For extra support with direct payments



If you are **under 65**, call **PSiC**,  
Personalisation Support in Camden  
**020 73 83 49 01**



If you are **65 or over**, call **Age UK Camden**  
**020 78 37 37 77**

Visit these websites



[camdencarechoices.camden.gov.uk](http://camdencarechoices.camden.gov.uk)



[www.camden.gov.uk](http://www.camden.gov.uk)



[www.ageuk.org.uk](http://www.ageuk.org.uk)



[www.vac.org.uk](http://www.vac.org.uk)