

# Managing your Personal Budget and organising your support

## The Different ways of Managing your budget

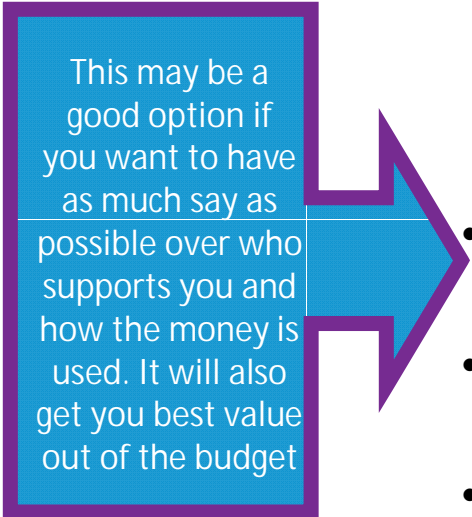
Self-directed support is about people who are eligible for a personal budget having as much control, choice and involvement in their support, or that of a relative, as they feel comfortable with.

This will be different for different people and it may well change over time. You may not want much control at first because you just want the care and support you need to be arranged. But, at a later date, you can choose to take some degree of control as you feel more able to and more aware of some of the choices that are possible.

Currently in Shropshire, there are 3 main ways that those eligible for a personal budget can manage a Personal Budget, but you can choose more than one as long as the total amount is within your budget.

### Method 1 - Direct Payment

You can choose to receive some or all of your Personal Budget directly.



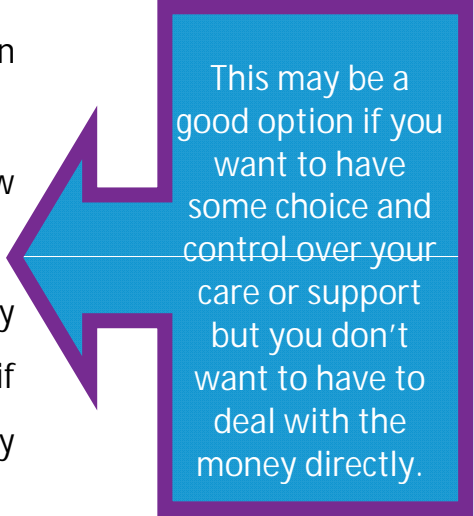
This may be a good option if you want to have as much say as possible over who supports you and how the money is used. It will also get you best value out of the budget

- The money is paid into a bank account in your name (or you may choose a nominee) for you to spend on your eligible needs and identified outcomes as agreed by the Council in your support plan.
- Some people employ their own Personal Assistants using a Direct Payment and get help to do this.
- Others buy services from a care or support provider that employs the staff.
- There is more information on Direct Payments available and your Care Manager will be able to help with this.

## Method 2. - Individual Service Fund

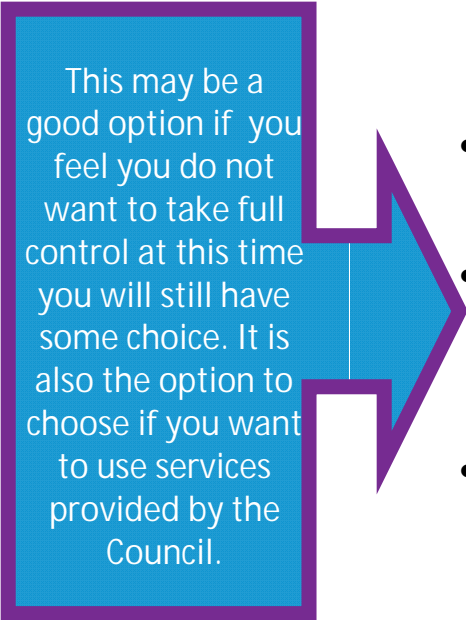
You can choose for some or all of your Personal Budget to be paid directly from the Council to your chosen service provider

- The money will be paid directly to an organisation that provides care or support.
- You will need to agree with that organisation how they will use it in line with your Support Plan.
- You will have flexibility in how to use the money to meet your agreed outcomes. For example, if you are going on holiday for a week that money can be 'banked' to be used at a later date.



This may be a good option if you want to have some choice and control over your care or support but you don't want to have to deal with the money directly.

## Method 3 - Council Managed Fund



This may be a good option if you feel you do not want to take full control at this time you will still have some choice. It is also the option to choose if you want to use services provided by the Council.

You can ask the Council to manage your Personal Budget for you:

- Your Care Manager will organise and set up your care or support
- You will be using some or all of your Personal Budget on services that are provided directly by the Council.
- You will be told the cost of the service and it will be taken directly from your Personal Budget.

## Organising your support

Your Personal Budget is designed to help you purchase and manage the support you need in a way that meets your agreed outcomes and helps you to live your life in a way that suites you.

We know that a lot of people receive the majority of their support freely from family, friends, neighbours, community groups and other

organisations and that this is an important part of living an ordinary life. Your Personal Budget gives you the flexibility to make the most of your support within the community and here are some ideas about how you can manage this in a way that puts you in control of key things in your life.

You may choose for example to use your Personal Budget to buy a place on a college course or attend a friendship group instead of attending a traditional day service as long as it meets your eligible needs and identified outcomes.

### Other ideas: Payment 'in kind'



Friends, family and neighbours can offer many kinds of support that are free or can be traded in exchange for something other than a cash payment. The flexibility of a Direct Payment can allow you to use the money to make such an exchange 'in kind', for example;

- Paying a person's membership fee of a club like photography in return for them taking you and supporting you whilst there.
- Purchasing a season ticket for a friend who takes you to a football match each week rather than paying someone to do that.
- Paying petrol costs for a friend who takes you shopping every week.
- Taking somebody out for a meal to say thank you for the support they provide for free.

Any support or items being paid for 'in kind' must be directly linked to your assessed eligible needs. This gifting is not a formal arrangement and must not be an alternative to employing someone, so must not equate to a minimum wage.

For more information about My Life My Choice, Self Directed Support in Shropshire and the services that are provided by the Council go to [www.shropshire.gov.uk](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk)

On the website you will find a number of helpful guides and leaflets that are available to download for free.

For help with social care emergencies that occur outside of office hours contact  
The Emergency Duty Team on 08456 789040

You can also get a copy of the leaflets, guides and other information produced by the Council from your Care Manager, local Customer Service Points or by calling this number 0345 678 9044

