

Mencap Family Information Event



Personal Budgets



What is a Personal Budget?



Money you get from the Council to pay for things to meet your support needs like,

How do I get one?



If you are eligible for support from social services e.g. if you already have a care package.



What can I use a Personal Budget for?

- Agency support worker
- Employing a personal assistant
- Respite
- Equipment e.g. laptop
- Learning classes
- Adaptations to your home



What can I not use a Personal Budget for?

- Do anything illegal
- Gambling
- Cigarettes
- Daily living expenses e.g. electric bill, food shopping



What is a Personal Budget?



With a personal Budget you get more choice about the support you get



Someone can look after your personal budget for you, like someone from the council or you can have a managed account



What is a Personal Budget?



You can look after it yourself with help from your family or a supporter if you want

If you look after it yourself then you are in charge of paying for the things you need, like your support



Looking after your own personal budget is called getting a direct payment



How much?



Finding out how much you will get in your personal budget

The council works out how much money you should get by doing an assessment



An assessment is a way of finding out what support a person needs



How much?



Finding out how much you will get in your personal budget

You might have to go to a meeting or fill in a form for your assessment



The council will work out how much money you need to pay for your support (RAS)



What Next?



Your social worker may help you create a support plan

Or you could do it with a support broker

Or you can do it yourself with family and friends





What is a Support Plan?



A Support Plan shows how you personal budget will be spent

You can show how you will use the personal budget to meet your needs in a way that you want



What needs to be in a support plan?



About you and what is important to you

What you want to change

What type of support you need

How you will spend your money



What needs to be in a support plan?



How you will manage your support

How will you stay in control

What will happen next



Activity



Group 1 - Good and Bad Day

Group 2 - What I am like and what's important to me – e.g. I am a friendly person and going out with my friends is important to me.

Group 3 - My Average week now and what my ideal week would be like



What Next?



You give your support plan to your social worker

The council will then approve it or ask you to make changes

You then receive your money and services in the way outlined in your support plan

You start to do the things in your support plan



Are Personal Budgets a Good Thing?

Mencap fully supports personalisation agenda – but has concerns about personal budget processes:

Lack of social care funding is a particular concern – personalisation should not be seen as a way to cut costs!



Are Personal Budgets a good thing?

- **So what should you look out for?**
- Make sure services are not cut due to personal budget
- Remember priority is to meet needs of individual
- Transition to personalised services can be disruptive
- Council should make sure there is wide range of alternative services
- Make sure you know you are on one and that it is not forced on you



What to do if not happy with Personal Budget?

- Tell the Local Authority
- Ask for greater involvement
- Make a complaint of things are imposed on you
- Ask for reassessment if amount allocated is not enough to buy services

Any Questions?



For more information about Personal Budgets or anything else you can contact the Mencap Direct Advice and Information Service

Freephone: 0808 808 1111

Email: help@mencap.org.uk

Text: 0771 798 9029

Text Relay: 18001 0808 808 1111

Post:

Advice and Information Service

Mencap

2309 – 2311 Coventry Road

Birmingham

B26 3PG

