



## Education, Health and Social Care

### Managing Your Own Support *Personal Budgets*

If your assessment from Education, Health and Social Care shows that you have eligible social care needs, we will give you a Personal Budget to help you meet those needs. You will be given a suggested amount of money, which you can use to plan the support you need. When agreed, you can use your Personal Budget, to buy your care and support.

#### What can I use a Personal Budget for?



You can use a Personal Budget in a variety of ways, but what you use it for must meet your eligible social care needs in your Support Plan.

#### You can Choose –



#### There are different ways to manage a Personal Budget.

- You can choose to have Personal Budget paid to you; we call this a direct payment.
- You can choose the Council to look after it; we arrange and pay for support on your behalf.
- You can have a mixture of both.

#### The benefits of a Direct Payment:



- You can arrange and manage your own support.
- Choose the people who support you whether this is via an agency or employing your own staff, or a mixture of the both.
- Services can be flexible, you can arrange support as and when you require it.
- You have more independence, choice and control over the support you receive and you can ensure this is more consistent.

# The Care Act – Fact Sheet 8A

## Employing Personal Assistants



If your budget is paid directly to you, and you choose to employ Personal Assistants. This will mean you have the responsibility of becoming an employer; this will include paying their wages and taxes, keeping records and organising the support you need. There is help and support available to enable you to do this.

You might also like to think about: how many personal assistants and hours you need. **Fact Sheet 8B**

## Having a Direct Payment



If you are able to manage your own finances or have someone who can help you, getting your Personal Budget in the form of a Direct Payment might suit you. You set up a Bank Account; you can buy and arrange your own support, or ask someone else or another agency to manage your payment for you.

## Do I have to decide now?



Receiving a Direct Payment is optional, and you can choose this at any time. If you want more information about how you manage your support or you change your mind you just need to contact Education Health and Social Care.

## What support can we offer?



A member of the Direct Payment Advice Team can call or visit you, provide information and talk about becoming an employer. They offer ongoing support such as help to recruit and signposting. You can then choose if this option is suitable for you. Your worker can then help you action this.

If you would like to employ your own Personal Assistants or want to find out more?

Let your Worker know, so they can ask a member of the **Direct Payment Advice Team** to provide you with information you need or contact the **Direct Payment Advice Team** direct on:

 **01872 324357** or email

[directpaymentsadviceteam@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:directpaymentsadviceteam@cornwall.gov.uk)