



ROCHDALE  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# What is a personal budget?

Easy read guide





Some of the words in this guide are hard to understand.

To help you these words will be in **bold**. All of these words are explained on pages 10 and 11.

## What is a personal budget?



A **personal budget** is money Rochdale Borough Council can give you to meet your eligible care and support needs.

You will know how much money you have to spend on your care and support.

It will give you more choice and control over the care and support you receive.



## How does a personal budget work?



A **social worker/support planner** will talk with you about your care and support needs and how these can be met. This is called an **assessment**.



Nationally set criteria are used to decide if you are eligible for support. These rules make sure everyone is treated fairly. Your **social worker/support planner** can tell you more about this.



If you meet the criteria for social care services then you and your **social worker/support planner** will agree what your needs are and how your care and support needs can be met.



You and your **social worker/ support planner** will agree a **support plan**. A **support plan** tells you what your care and support needs are and how you will spend your money to meet these needs.



## How much money will I get?



Your **social worker/support planner** will tell you how much money you have in your **personal budget** to spend on services.



You will have a **financial assessment**. The **financial assessment** will look at what money you have coming in and out. It will tell you if you need to pay something towards your care and support.

## How do I plan my support?



Your **support plan** should say:

- What care and support you want to buy with your **personal budget**
- How the care and support will meet your needs
- How much the care and support will cost
- Who will provide the care and support



Different people can write your support plan:

- You can write the **support plan** yourself
- Your friends and family can help you to write the **support plan**
- Your **social worker/support planner** can help you to write the **support plan**
- A **support broker** can help you write the support plan



Your **support plan** must be agreed by Rochdale Borough Council.

## What can I use my personal budget for?



You can employ a **personal assistant**.



You can get care and support to help you live safely at home.



You can get care and support to help you in the community.



You can join a course to learn a new skill and meet new people.



And you can come up with ideas of your own!

## What can I not use a personal budget for?



You cannot buy anything that breaks the law.



You cannot buy anything that does not meet your care and support needs.



You cannot buy food and drink.



You cannot buy anything for your health needs, including NHS treatment or equipment that the NHS would provide.



## Types of personal budget



You can have a **cash budget (in the form of a direct payment)** to arrange and buy your own care and support.

You can ask Rochdale Borough Council to arrange your care and support. We call this a **managed budget**.

You can have a mixture of both. We call this a **combined budget**.

You can choose a service provider to look after your personal budget. This is called **an individual service fund**.

## Words in **bold>** explained

### Assessment

A social worker or support planner will talk to you about your care and support needs and how these can be met

### Cash budget (in the form of a direct payment)

Rochdale Borough Council gives you (or someone you trust) money so that you can spend it in the way you choose to meet your social care needs

### Combined budget

You can have a mixture of a cash budget (in the form of a direct payment) and a managed budget (see below)

### Financial assessment

Rochdale Borough Council will look at what money you have coming in and out. We will then tell you if you need to pay something towards your care and support

### Individual service fund

You can choose a service provider to look after your personal budget

### Managed budget

You can ask Rochdale Borough Council to arrange your care and support

### Personal assistant

Can do many things for you; you might need help getting to the shops, you might want to get involved in community activities or events but need help getting there and home again. A personal assistant can help you with all of these things and more

### Personal budget

Money Rochdale Borough Council can give you to meet your social care needs

### Social worker/support planner

Work for Adult Care Services and are trained to carry out assessments and work out support plans

### Support broker

Someone who can help you work out how to spend your personal budget

# Contact us

You can find out more about personal budgets by contacting Rochdale Council Adult Care Services.

☎ 0300 303 8886

✉ [adult.care@rochdale.gov.uk](mailto:adult.care@rochdale.gov.uk)

🌐 <https://staywell.rochdale.gov.uk/web/portal/pages/home>

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