



Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

What is a personal budget?

Easy Read Guide

What is a personal budget?

Some of the words in this guide may be hard to understand. To help you these words are in **bold** and are explained on the 'words explained' page.



A **personal budget** is money Stockton-On-Tees Borough council can give you to meet your care and support needs.



You will know how much money you have to spend on your support to meet your needs.



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

How does a personal budget work?



A **care manager** will talk with you about your needs and how these can be met. This is called a **Care Act Assessment**.



There are rules that are used to decide who gets support. This is called **eligibility criteria**. These rules make sure everyone is treated fairly. Your **care manager** can tell you more about this.

How does a personal budget work?



If you meet the **eligibility criteria** for social care services then you and your **care manager** will agree what your needs are and how your needs can be met.

A screenshot of a digital form titled 'My Care and Support Plan'. The form is from Stockton-on-Tees Adult Services. It includes fields for 'Name and Address', 'DOB', 'NHS No.', 'Care Manager', 'Designation', 'Contact Details', and 'Completion Date'. There are small grey boxes next to the 'Designation' and 'Contact Details' labels, indicating input fields. At the bottom, there is a small note: '(N.B. This Care and Support Plan is the format used by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council but other formats will be accepted)'. The form has a clean, professional layout with a blue header and a white body.

You and your **care manager** will agree a **support plan**. A **support plan** says what your care and support needs are and how you will spend your money to meet your needs.

How much money will I get?



Your **care manager** will tell you how much money you have in your **personal budget** to spend on services.



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

How do I plan my support?

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Client ID:
Adult Services

Big plans for the care we provide

My Care and Support Plan

Name and Address

DOB:

NHS No:

Care Manager:

Designation:

Contact Details:

Completion Date:

N.B. This Care and Support Plan is the format used by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council but other formats will be accepted

Your **support plan** should say:



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

How do I plan my support?



Different people can write your **support plan**:

- You can write it yourself.
- Your friends and family can help you.
- Your care manager can help you.
- Someone else who you choose can help you.



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Your **support plan** must be agreed by Stockton-On-Tees Borough Council.

What can I use a personal budget for?



You can employ a **personal assistant**.



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



You can get support to help you in the community.

What can I use a personal budget for?



You can meet new people.



You can join a course to learn a new skill.



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 or causes you or anyone else harm.



You cannot buy anything that exposes you or others to unacceptable levels of risk.



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

Types of personal budget

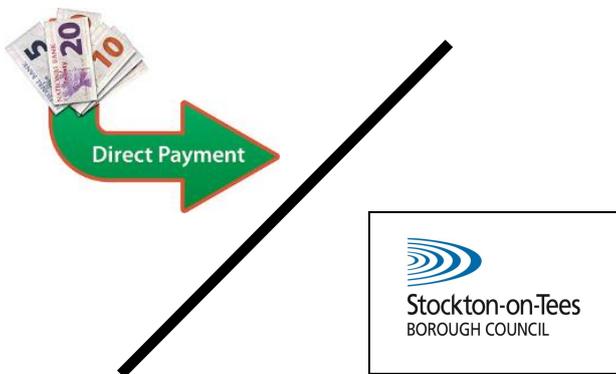


You can have a direct payment to arrange and buy your own support.



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You can ask Stockton-On-Tees Borough Council to arrange your support. We call this a **managed service**.



You can have a mixture of the above.



You can choose someone you trust to look after your **personal budget**. This is called a **third party managed budget**.

Words Explained

Assessment officer – A person who works for Adult Social Care and does financial assessments.

Care Act Assessment – A Care Manager will talk with you about your needs and how these can be met. You can have someone you trust to support you when you are having an assessment.

Care manager – A person who works for Adult Social Services, this could be a social worker or a care co-ordination assistant.

Direct payment – Stockton-On-Tees Borough Council gives you money so you can spend it in the way you choose to meet your social care needs.

Eligibility criteria – Rules in adult social care that decide who can get help and support so everyone is treated fairly.

Words Explained

Financial assessment – Stockton-On-Tees Borough Council will look at what money you have coming in and out. We will tell you if you need to pay something towards your support.

Managed service – You can ask Stockton-On-Tees Borough Council to arrange your support. If you choose this option you can only have services that the council provide.

Personal budget – Money Stockton-On-Tees Borough Council can give you to meet your social care needs.

Personal assistant – Can do many things for you such as; helping you to the shops, making meals for you or helping you to get dressed. A personal assistant can help with all of these things and more.

Support plan – Describes what you would like to achieve and change about your life and how you will use your personal budget to make these changes happen.

Third party managed budget – Someone you trust can help you manage your personal budget.

Contact us

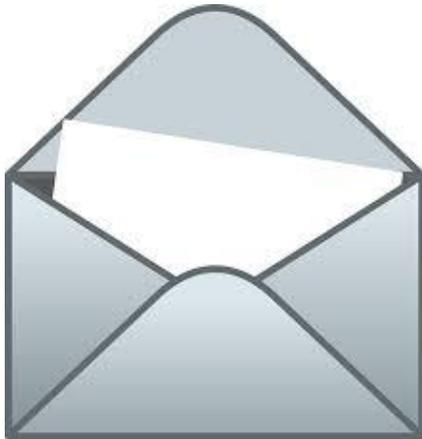


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You can find out more about personal budgets by contacting Stockton Personalisation Support Service (SPSS) at the council.



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