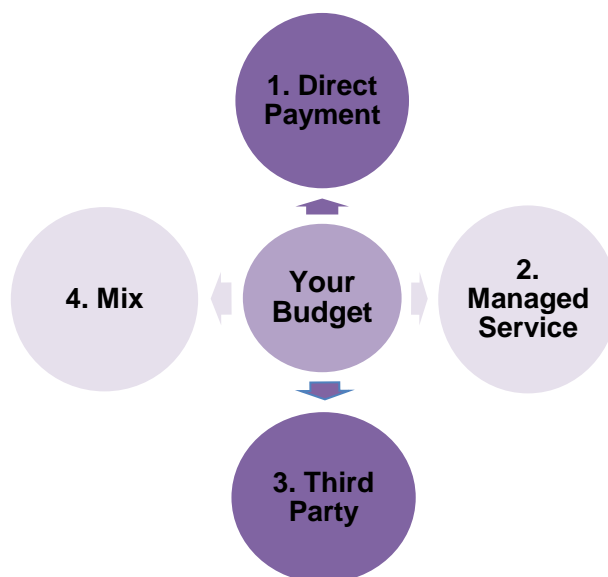


### Managing your Personal Budget

To try and increase choice and control we offer flexible options to help you manage your personal budget:



1. You can choose to manage your budget yourself –Your budget would be paid directly to you in the form of a prepaid card (a Direct Payment). You can use the card just like any bank debit cards, purchasing a product or service to meet your support needs in person, by phone or over the internet.
2. You can ask for a managed service – Stockton-On-Tees Borough Council will look after your personal budget for you and provide you with the services you want to meet your support needs. If you choose this option you will only be able to choose from services provided by the council such as home care or day care service.
3. You can choose to have a third party manage your budget – You would choose someone you trust, such as a family member, friend, support service or advocate to manage your budget with you. Anyone you choose to look after your personal budget must listen and respect your views.
4. You can have a mix of the above options – You don't have to choose just one way to manage your budget. Having a mix can offer more flexibility and control over your support needs.