

## Self Directed Support

Self Directed Support is a new way the Council gives social care to people who need it. It lets you sort out and choose the support you want.

This is a big change and the Council is working hard to make sure it is successful. There is a monthly meeting with local learning disability organisations and service providers to make sure that the changes make sense and are understood by everyone.

### What is Self Directed Support?



You will have to be assessed by the Council and they have to agree that you qualify for support.

If you do, the Council will ask you to work with them to identify the support you need and where to find it.

### How does Self Directed Support Work?



Under Self Directed Support everybody who qualifies for support from the Council will be assessed individually and given a cash amount appropriate for their needs, called a 'Personal Budget'.

We tell you how much money you should get and you can choose how and when to spend it on the support that we have agreed that you need.

### How will the Council decide how much money I get?



You will need to fill in a simple form called the Self Assessment Questionnaire. You complete the questionnaire by ticking a series of boxes that best describes you and your support needs. You can ask friends or family or your Care Manager to help you do this.

This form will help the Council work out the amount of money that may be required to meet your needs.

## Will I have to pay anything for the support I get?



In some cases, you may be asked to make a contribution towards your support. You will have to fill in a financial assessment to see if and how much you need to pay.

After you have filled in your Self Assessment and the financial assessment you will be told in writing the maximum amount of money you can spend on meeting your support needs. This is called your 'Indicative Personal Budget'.

You will then need to write a Support Plan.

## What is a Support Plan?



A Support Plan shows how much of your Indicative Personal Budget you will need to spend to meet your needs. It will show what support you need, who will provide that support and how much it will cost.

You can ask friends, family or your Care Manager for help with this.

If the Council is paying for your support they will have to agree your Support Plan before any money will be made available for you to use.

Your Personal Budget is the actual cost of the support you need as identified in your Support Plan.

Once this has been done you will be given your Personal Budget

## Who will help me decide how to spend the money?

You may already know how you want to use the money. If not, you could take advice from:



Family



Friends



Care Manager



Trusted organisations

We want people to be able to get good independent help when they are planning how to spend their Personal Budget and your Care Manager can help you with this.



You can also get help from local organisations such as RUILS who are a Richmond based, user-led charity made up of older and disabled people who can help you through the Self Directed Support process.



Richmond Independent Brokerage Service (RIBS) can also help you. RIBS is a consortium of voluntary groups who provide advice, information and a Support Brokerage Service to people accessing Self Directed Support.

### Who will look after the money?

Once the Council has told you what your Personal Budget is you can take the money either as:

- A Direct Payment – you can look after your own money and organise your own support or ask a family member or friend to do this on your behalf
- A Council Managed Account – we can look after your money and organise your support
- An Individual Service Fund – you can ask a trustworthy organisation to look after your money and organise your support
- A Well-Being Account – if you are unable to make decisions, a nominated person can look after your money and organise your support



You can also choose a combination of these. Your Care Manager will be able to help you with this decision.

You take as much control of your Personal Budget as you want to or you feel you are able to.

## What happens next?

At a set time(s) of the year, your Care Manager will visit you to check that your Personal Budget is working for you and discuss what, if anything, you want to do next or need to change.

## How do I get more information?

For further information or to ask us for an assessment please contact us using the details below:



Adult and Community Services

Learning Disability

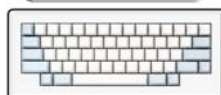
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Email: [Herbert.Simms@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:Herbert.Simms@richmond.gov.uk)



For more information on Self Directed Support please read our [information booklet](#)

For more information on Self Directed Support:

[www.in-control.org.uk](http://www.in-control.org.uk)

[www.supportplanning.org](http://www.supportplanning.org)

[www.ruils.co.uk](http://www.ruils.co.uk)

[Visit our fact sheet page for more information on our Adult and Community Services](#)

**Please contact us if you need this fact sheet in Braille, large print, audiotape or another language.**