

# Factsheet 4 — You and your Personal Budget

## Personal Budgets

Personal budgets are given to people with eligible care and support needs, and also to carers. They are used to pay for your care and support and offer you more flexibility over how the services are arranged and provided.

Your budget enables you to organise your own care, based on the care needs you have. The budget can be used to:

- employ care staff
- buy or hire equipment
- short breaks (respite care) – in your home or elsewhere
- accessing activities during the day, either through day care or community run activities
- pay for agency care

Before the council can allocate you a personal budget, you will need to be assessed: first for your **care needs** and second for your **financial situation**. You cannot be allocated a budget unless both assessments have taken place.

Once these assessments have been completed you can choose to have your budget managed in one (or a combination) of the following options:

**Cash personal budget** – you are given your budget as a **direct payment** and organise any care and support yourself.

**For further information contact customer services:**

**Telephone: (01482) 393939**

**Email: [customer.services@eastriding.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@eastriding.gov.uk)**

You will need to set up a bank account as this is where your budget will be paid into on a monthly basis.

You will also use this account to pay in your own contribution (if you have to pay one). You will receive support from the Direct Payment Support Service to set this up.

**Managed personal budget** – you can nominate someone else to manage your support for you. This means that someone else manages your budget on your behalf, such as a relative, a friend or a provider of care management.

**Virtual personal budget** – the council will manage your budget and support services on your behalf. With this option the council will spend your budget on services that they either provide in-house or purchase on your behalf.

The council must:

- spend your budget on meeting the needs identified in your care & support plan
- ensure you are satisfied with your support
- ensure that they get value for money
- tell you exactly what your budget is being spent on.

