## Example

Robert used to find it difficult 'sitting at home' waiting for his home help to come in at a time that suited them', now he uses his personal budget in a way that allows him to decide times that are convenient for him.

Robert receives an amount of money identified to meet his needs as a 'personal budget'. Robert chooses how he receives his money either monthly, quarterly etc, which goes into a bank account set up for these payments. Robert then uses the money to pay for his care, which has been identified and set out in his support plan. Robert can if needed make changes to the way his needs are met as long as the overall support that has been identified is achieved.

**Drop-in and see us!**

**Age Concern Gateshead,**
341-343 High Street, Gateshead

**Tuesdays & Thursdays**
**10am –3pm**

**Or contact us:**

**Sight Service Gateshead,**
The Bradbury Centre,
Bensham Hospital

**Telephone: 0191 4785959**

**Email:**
**elaine.vernon@sightservice.co.uk**

**Large print and other formats of this leaflet are available.**

Peer Mentors Gateshead
Helping each other to get help

Peer Mentoring Gateshead is a partnership of voluntary organisations within the Borough.

May 2010

Peer Mentors Gateshead
Helping each other to get help

# Choices & Changes

## in Adult Social Care

**Adult social care is undergoing a huge transformation. By 2012, anyone who is assessed as having needs which social services will meet will receive a 'personal budget', which is an amount of money that is required to meet their needs.**

**The person may choose to take this as a direct payment or it can be used to arrange care and support on their behalf, but the person will have more choice about how they want to use it to achieve the outcomes that are important to them.**

**This can be a very scary idea, especially for older people, but arranging your own care can mean a much better 'fit' with your needs.**

## What will change?

Support planning will replace care plans. You will have more flexibility and choice to use your personal budget to build your own care in a way that suits your needs.

This should mean that every adult is in control of his or her care and support. People will be supported to make their own decisions, even if they need help to do so. It should also allow thinking beyond existing services and traditional boundaries in social care.

## What won't change?

Gateshead Council will still have the same duty of care to ensure people's needs are accurately assessed within Fair Access to Care and to make sure that support and care is in place to meet those needs.

## Who can help if I want more information?

Voluntary sector partners, led by Sight Service and Age Concern Gateshead are bringing together volunteers to act as Peer Mentors for people thinking about managing their own personal budgets.

Having already navigated the system, they are in a unique position to begin to help people think about what kinds of things they could put in place and what they would like to change about any existing care packages.

They can talk to you about their experience of arranging their own personal budget and what they wish they'd known before they started.