

MY PERSONAL BUDGET AND HOW I CAN MEET MY ASSESSED ELIGIBLE NEEDS IN GATESHEAD – THE GATESHEAD CHOICE MATRIX

Options	What does it mean?	What choice does it give me?	What control does it give me?	What will I be responsible for?	Who might choose this option?
Services Arranged by Individual					
Direct Payment	You receive your personal budget directly into a bank account which has been set up by you specifically for your payment. This can include an element for a single item or piece of equipment.	It gives you choice about how your money is spent, as long as it meets your needs identified in your assessment and agreed in your support plan. It can be used to employ a personal assistant, or purchase support through a service provider. You can club together with other people who want support for the same type of thing to buy support for you all. It is a flexible way of receiving your budget and gives you a wide choice.	You will be able to fully control the provision and delivery of your services to meet your assessed needs flexibly within the boundaries of your agreement and support plan. You can also choose which item you buy to suit your particular needs	While it gives you maximum control you also have the responsibilities that come with managing a budget and becoming an employer if you choose to employ a personal assistant. You will have to agree a contract with a service provider and keep to the terms. You are responsible for researching the cost and appropriateness of any single item and for maintaining it once it is bought. You will also be responsible for monitoring your budget and supplying information to the council on how it has been used.	People who want to arrange services for themselves and are confident in dealing with money management and the employment of their own staff. Also people who want to be in control of choosing their own organisation, personal assistant or service provider.
Representative Payment	A suitable person, usually a close family member or friend manages your money and arranges your service provision and your personal budget will be paid to them.	This gives the same choice as you would get from a Direct Payment except is your suitable person who organises everything provided the services that are chosen meet your assessed needs regardless of your ability to retain the capacity to make the choice to have this method of delivery.	Your representative will be able to fully control the provision and delivery of your services through your in order to meet your assessed needs flexibly within the boundaries of your agreement and support plan.	While it gives your representative maximum control they will have to be prepared to take on the responsibilities that come with managing a budget and becoming an employer if they choose to employ a personal assistant or contract with a service provider.	People who want to arrange services for themselves but do not have the capacity to consent to a Direct Payment. Instead, they have a suitable person that they can trust to represent them on these matters.
Council Arranged Services					
In House Services/ Commissioned Services	After finding out your personal budget allocation you can choose for the Council to arrange your service provision either in house or by contracting with a provider of services on your behalf.	You have some choice about what services or agencies are used to meet your needs and still have choice about how those needs are met in the support plan. However, your choice will be limited to a menu of providers held by the Council.	The Council contracts services on your behalf therefore you could only choose those agencies or services which the Council already commissions or who succeed in becoming commissioned by the Council or in house services.	You will be responsible for assisting with your support plan and you can choose your services from the Council menu but you will not need to worry about money management, contracting or employing people.	May be suitable for people who want some choice about how their services are delivered but do not want responsibility of contracting or employing agencies or staff. It is also an option for people who have fluctuating abilities and may not always have the capacity to manage on a day to day basis
Mixed Package	You can also choose a mixed package of commissioned services AND a direct payment for different elements of your care and support.	You have choice about what elements of your care and support could be through commissioned services but can take some of your personal budget as a direct payment to give you more choice	It gives you a range of choice and control in the delivery of your services	You have more control but also have responsibilities for managing the budget for the elements which you choose as a direct payment.	May be suitable for people who want some control but do not want all of their services to be arranged in this way.
Options in Development for Commissioned Services					
Individualised Service Fund	The money is given to a service provider to manage for you.	This allows you to shape the services that you want to receive from a provider without needing to deal with the management of finances yourself. It allows you to tailor a bespoke service with the provider.	Within the provider's services you will have full control and flexibility but you will not be dealing with the management of your budget allocation.	You will not be responsible for contracting with the agency or provider but will be required to agree your service provision to meet your assessed needs and your must sign an agreement that you wish to use this option to meet your assessed needs.	This will be appropriate where you want to shape your service provision with a specific provider (usually because you have particularly complex needs) but do not want to deal with the money management or contracting issues.
Indirect Payment	The money is given to a third party – agency, organisation or broker – to manage for you.	You can nominate a third party to receive your personal budget provided you have capacity to do so. You can then direct them as to how you want your budget to be spent to meet your assessed needs.	You will be in control of how you direct your budget to be spent and which services you receive.	You will be responsible for ensuring that your budget is spent to meet your assessed needs by monitoring the third party. The third party will manage the money.	May be an option for people who have limited capacity or fluctuating abilities but would like to nominate a third party organisation to manage the money and assist in selecting their services.