

Personalisation and self directed support in Gateshead Council arranged services

The way we provide adult social care is changing and this means the way we work with you will change too. This is part of the government's personalisation programme.

This factsheet explains what you need to know if you choose for Gateshead Council to continue to arrange your social care – either through in-house / commissioned services or a mixed package.

We hope this factsheet will provide the answers to all of your questions, but we know some of the things mentioned here are quite complicated so please don't worry if you find any of it difficult to understand. We will continue to work with you to help explain the changes.

In-house / commissioned services

What does it mean?

After finding out your personal budget allocation you can choose for Gateshead Council to arrange your service provision, either in-house or through a contract with a services provider, on your behalf.

What choice does it give me?

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.

In-house / commissioned services continued...

What control does it give me?

The council creates contracts with services on your behalf, so you could only choose agencies or services that the council already commissions, or who succeed in becoming commissioned by the council in the future. You can also choose in-house services provided by the council.

What will I be responsible for?

You will be responsible for assisting with your support plan. You can choose your services from the council menu, but you will not need to worry about money management, contracting or employing people.

Who might choose this option?

This may be suitable for you if you want some choice about how your services are delivered, but do not want responsibility for contracting or employing agencies or staff. It could also be an option for you if you have fluctuating abilities and may not always have the capacity to manage on a day to day basis.

It could be that some of the needs identified in your re-assessment or review have a low risk of you losing your independence and so we would not offer you a service or a personal budget for them. Your assessing officer or social worker can give you information about where you may be able to get help in your local community.

However, this is also an opportunity to consider choosing to use some or your entire personal budget as a direct payment.

Mixed package

What does it mean?

You can choose a mixed package of commissioned services (as above) AND a direct payment for different elements of your care and support.

What choice does it give me?

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.

What control does it give me?

It gives you a range of choice and control in the delivery of your services.

What will I be responsible for?

You have more control but also have responsibilities for managing the budget for the elements which you choose as a direct payment.

Who might choose this option?

This may be suitable for you if you want some control but do not want all of your services to be arranged in this way.

Please note:

There are further factsheets in this series that can explain the other options available to you.

These include direct payments and representative payments. In future there may also be options including an individualised service fund and an indirect payment.

