

## Personalisation and self directed support in Gateshead

### Services arranged by individuals

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 to arrange your social care yourself - either through a direct payment or a representative payment.

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.

## Direct payments

### What does it mean?

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.

### What choice does it give me?

You can use it 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.

## Direct payments continued...

### What control does it give me?

You will be able to fully control how services are provided to meet your assessed needs. There is a lot of flexibility but you must stick to the boundaries of your agreement and support plan. You can also choose which items you buy to suit your particular needs.

### What will I be responsible for?

While it gives you maximum control you also have the responsibilities that come with managing a budget and becoming an employer. This is something you will need to consider if you choose to employ a personal assistant – a range of factsheets are available to help you if you decide to do this. You will have to agree a contract with a service provider and keep to the terms of it. You will also be 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.

### Who might choose this option?

This will appeal to you if you want to arrange services for yourself and are confident in dealing with money management and the employment of your own staff. Also, if you want to be in control of choosing your own organisation, personal assistant or service provider then this is the option for you.

# Representative Payment

## What does it mean?

A suitable person, usually a close family member or friend, manages your money and arranges your service provision. Your personal budget will be paid to them.

## What choice does it give me?

This gives the same choice as you would get from a direct payment, but the money is paid to whoever is acting as your “suitable person”. They can organise everything for you, regardless of your ability to make the choice to have this method of delivery, as long as the services chosen meet your assessed needs.

## What control does it give me?

Your representative will be able to fully control how services are provided to meet your assessed needs. There is a lot of flexibility but they must stick to the boundaries of your agreement and support plan.

## What will I be responsible for?

While this option gives your representative maximum control, they will also 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 for you or arrange a contract with a service provider).

## Who might choose this option?

If you want to arrange services for yourself but do not have the capacity to consent to a direct payment this could be the option for you. You will need a suitable person who you can trust to represent you on these matters.

## **Please note:**

There are further factsheets in this series that can explain the other options available to you. These include council arranged services and commissioned services. In future there may also be options including an individualised service fund and an indirect payment.

