

## Self directed support Individualised Budgets/In Control

This fact sheet can be made available in other languages or formats on request by contacting 0161 770 6666. For further information please see our detailed fact sheet **Information for all**.

### What is self directed support?

Self directed support is about people organising and having control over their support needs. Other words used to describe this are being 'In Control' and having an 'Individualised Budget'. They are all words used to describe how people with support needs can be in control and have more choice over how they live their lives.

### What is an Individualised Budget?

This is the amount of money that may be available to people who have support needs. This may include money that you already get to help you to live your life including Disability Living Allowance, Mobility Allowance, Attendance Allowance or others.

### Who can have an Individualised Budget?

People who have been assessed as eligible to receive community care services under the Government Fair Access to Care Services Guidelines [FACS], are eligible for public funding and who are willing and agreeable to using all the money to which they are entitled.

### How do people know if they are eligible under FACS?

People who have support needs themselves or someone on their behalf can contact the council to ask for an initial assessment of their needs. A meeting will be arranged to assess if you are eligible to receive social care support. You will receive a copy of this assessment telling you if you are eligible for support or not.

### What happens if I am not eligible for support from the council?

You can expect to be given advice about where to get other help. There are some low level preventative services that may be available to you.

## **What happens next if I am eligible?**

The council will need to know what support you need to live the way you choose. You will need to complete a simple form called the Resource Allocation System [RAS]. You can do this yourself, with help from a Care Manager or other people who you choose.

The RAS will show what support you need and the amount of money that may be available to meet your needs. The RAS will also show if you need to claim other benefits to live your life if you are eligible to do so.

## **Will it cost me anything?**

You will need to know how much you will have to pay if anything. This is called your 'contribution'. To find out if you have to pay towards your support you will need to have a fairer charging assessment undertaken by the Fairer Charging team.

## **What happens next?**

You will be told in writing or by your Care Manager how much money you can spend on meeting your support needs. You will need to make a support plan before any money will be made available for you to use. You can have help to do this and can choose who you would like to help you. This could be a Care Manager, your family, friends or advocate. You can also request help from the support planning drop in service based at the Link Centre. This is a service provided by the person centred planning team and people who have support needs and are experienced in support planning.

## **What is a support plan?**

A support plan tells people about you, your support needs. It will show:

- What you will spend the money on; this must be legal.
- How you will stay healthy, safe and well and your independence is promoted.
- How you will organise the support you need and the help you will need to do that.
- How you are planning to live your life now and in the future. Your future plans are also called goals and outcomes.

Once the support plan showing all these things is agreed at panel your money will be paid into a nominated bank account.

## **What happens if it is not agreed?**

If there are any areas of risk or concerns highlighted in the plan either by yourself or others this will be discussed at the risk enablement panel. The purpose of the risk enablement panel is to discuss, record, and minimise the risk and share the responsibility of the decisions taken. You can attend

this panel if you want to. Sometimes the risk panel might make suggestions before the money can be paid.

## **Who can I employ?**

The Individualised Budget is not intended to replace natural support given by families who are already providing support and may be receiving carers allowance or attendance allowance. You may be able to employ someone you already know or you may have to advertise for a personal assistant. It is not usual to employ relatives who live in the same house as you but this may be considered in some cases. This is known as exceptional circumstances and will be discussed by the risk enablement panel.

## **What is the difference between Individualised Budgets and Direct Payments?**

With an Individualised Budget you can choose to have social care services provided by the council in addition to employing people directly. You could not do this with direct payments.

## **What if things don't work out?**

You can ask your Care Manager to organise your support.

## **How do I get more information?**

For further information please contact

The Self Directed Support Team  
Highbarn Resource Centre  
2nd Floor  
Highbarn Street  
Royton  
OL2 6DW  
Tel: 0161 770 1173  
Fax: 0161 770 3814

## **Are you a carer?**

If you look after a relative or friend who needs support to live at home you are a carer. As a carer you have the right to ask Adult and Community Services to carry out a carer's assessment (this applies even if the person you care for is not receiving help from Adult and Community Services). Your carer's assessment is your chance to talk about your needs and is your opportunity to tell us about the things that could make caring easier for you.

There are a variety of services available to carers following an assessment including; advice & information, short breaks & respite, additional services to the person you care for, signposting to voluntary & health services, introduction to support groups.

For more information contact

Oldham Carers Centre  
The Link Centre  
Union Street  
Oldham OL1 1DZ  
Tel: 0161 770 1188  
Fax: 0161 770 4789  
Email: [carers.centre@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:carers.centre@oldham.gov.uk)

## **We value your comments and suggestions about social care**

We want to provide good-quality services for people in Oldham. And as we are a public service, you have a say in everything we do. We want you to be completely satisfied with our services, but to be sure of this we need to know what you think. What do we do best? Where could we improve things? Do you have any ideas or suggestions?

Only by listening to you can we give you the service you deserve. Our Quality Assurance Team welcomes everything you have to say.

You can contact the Quality Assurance Team by writing to:

Arfan Mohammed  
Quality Assurance Co-ordinator  
Performance & Quality Assurance  
Unit 10, Whitney Court, Southlink Business Park OL4 1DB

You can also contact the Quality Assurance Team as follows:

Phone: 0161 770 8122/3  
Fax: 0161 770 8193  
E-mail: [arfan.mohammed@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:arfan.mohammed@oldham.gov.uk)  
or [kirsty.adderley@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:kirsty.adderley@oldham.gov.uk)

If English is not your first or preferred language, we can arrange to visit you with an interpreter.

**Contact**

You can access fact sheets in a number of ways:

**Download:** [www.oldham.gov.uk](http://www.oldham.gov.uk)

**Tel:** 0161 770 6666

**Email:** [contact@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:contact@oldham.gov.uk)

**Write to:** Contact Oldham, PO Box 196,  
Civic Centre, West Street, Oldham OL1 1QJ

**Call in:** to any council office and requesting them

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**Oct 2009 OCFS-ACS-GSS40S (version 8) PID- CO**