

what is a resource allocation system?

To be in control of planning your social care support, you need to know how much money is available for your personal budget. The council uses a tool called the Resource Allocation System (RAS for short) to work out this amount.

During assessment for a personal budget, you will have filled in a self-directed assessment questionnaire. The questions on this form have a number of points attached to them. When these points are all added up, the total number equates to an amount of money, which will be your personal budget.

At this stage, the amount is known as an 'indicative' budget – an approximate amount that gives you a figure to go on while you put together your support plan. This amount will be firmed up once your support plan is agreed.

What if I don't agree with the amount?

The indicative budget will be right in most cases, and you should aim to build your support plan within that amount of money.

The final amount won't be decided until your plan is approved, so there is still time for adjustment if, during support planning, you find that you can meet your needs using less money. If that happens, your final personal budget will be less than your indicative budget.

Or it may be that you believe more money will be required to meet your needs than the indicative budget suggests. If this is the case, please feel that you can discuss it with your care manager. Situations like this will be looked at on a case-by-case basis to make sure your final budget amount is fair, and will meet your eligible needs.

What happens after resource allocation?

Once you know how much your indicative budget is, it's time to put together your support plan. This is where you plan (with help if you prefer) how you will use your personal budget to meet your social care needs.

- Find out more in the factsheets '*What is a self-directed assessment?*', '*How can I receive my personal budget?*' and '*What is a support plan?*' – information about how to get copies is overleaf.

Turn over
for further
information



Find out more about personal budgets and directing your own support

personal budgets and employing PAs

- **Fact sheets** – find the rest of the series at www.leeds.gov.uk/personal_budgets
- **Booklet: *Your Personal Budget*** – more detail about the different steps to getting a personal budget.
- **Short film: *Personal Budgets in Leeds*** – people in Leeds talk about using personal budgets to live more independently. Watch it online at www.leeds.gov.uk/personal_budgets.
- **Peer support** – talk to people who already use a personal budget! Contact Free to Live, the Personal Budgets Peer Support Network, on 0113 214 3594 or visit their website at www.freetoliveleeds.org.
- **Employing personal assistants (PAs)** – if you're going to be recruiting and employing your own PAs, ask for a copy of the *Leeds Guide to Becoming an Employer*. If you're using an agency, see 'Choosing services and support', below.
- **Further information** – visit the council's website www.leeds.gov.uk/personal_budgets for loads more information including frequently asked questions, a glossary of terms, and more.

No web access?
No problem. You can get copies of all booklets, fact sheets and other information from your care manager, or by phoning Customer Services on 0113 222 4401.

choosing services and support

- Visit www.leedsdirectory.org to find local services online. Search by service, postcode or the area where you live. Or phone the Directory Helpline on 0113 391 8333 for advice or a paper copy.
- **Booklet: *Guide to Buying Services and Support*** – tips on making the most of your budget when dealing with suppliers.

Collect the factsheet series!

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