

Self-directed support

Getting your plan agreed

Your local authority needs to see and agree to your support plan before they can decide what your final budget is.

This fact sheet tells you how to get your support plan agreed by your local authority.



To get more help
contact In Control

Tel: 0121 474 5900

Email:

help@in-control.org.uk

<p>What is important to you?</p>	<p>What do you want to change?</p>	<p>How will you use your individual budget?</p>
<p>How will you manage your support?</p>	<p>How will you stay in control of your life?</p>	<p>What will you do to make this plan happen?</p>



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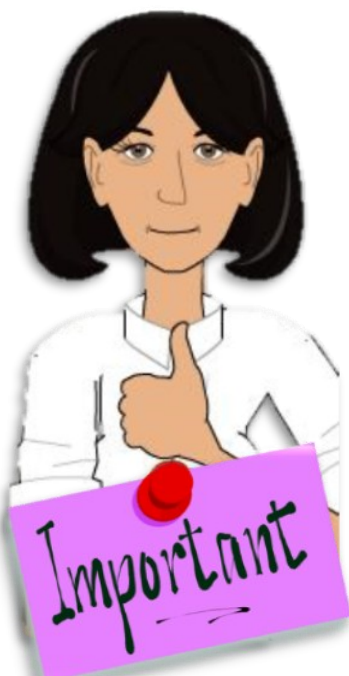
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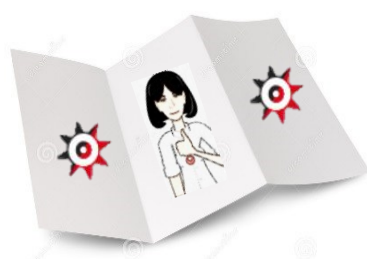
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The local authority needs you to answer 7 questions.



The local authority might have leaflets saying what you need to do.



The basic facts

The local authority needs you to answer these questions, so it can agree to your plan:

- What is important to you?
- What do you want to change or achieve?
- How will you arrange your support?
- How will you use your individual budget?
- How will you manage your support (so you keep healthy, safe and well)?
- How will you stay in control of your life?
- What will you do to make this plan happen?

Your local authority may have a leaflet that says what they expect to see in your plan – ask if there is one.



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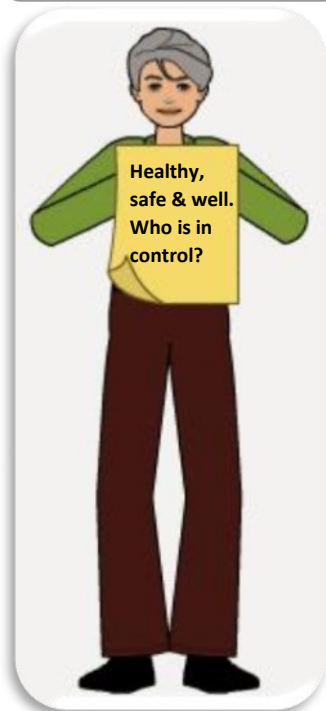
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The local authority will tell you, roughly, how much you have to spend.



Your care manager can help you with your plan.



Your local authority will tell you what your 'indicative budget' is. This is an indication of how much money someone with your support needs will get. Your support plan might show you need more or less than the indication. If so, you must be able to explain and justify the difference.

More information about getting your plan agreed

Your care manager or social worker can help you so that your plan answers these questions. Your care manager will also make sure:

- Your plan will keep you healthy, safe and well.
- The right person is in control of your budget – someone who will plan to spend the money in a responsible way.

Once the local authority has agreed your plan they will give the money to you or to the person you have asked to manage it for you.

You can make adjustments to your plan at any time. You need to let your care manager know if you want to make any big changes.



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The local authority does not agree with your plan.

More detail

What if the local authority doesn't agree to your plan?

Your local authority might not agree your plan if they think:

- You have gone significantly over the indicative amount and you can't justify the increase.
- It does not meet your assessed needs.
- It will not keep you healthy, safe and well.
- It does not help you be in control of your support.

If they don't agree your plan, you should ask why. You can then talk together about how you can achieve what you want.

Some local authorities have a 'risk enablement panel' which helps to decide what would work in the best interests of the individual. A panel listens to everyone involved and tries to work out the best solution.

If you are still unhappy about the outcome you can still use your local authority's complaints procedure.



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This letter explains why we don't agree with your plan.



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The panel tries to work out the best solution.



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Complaints

If all else fails you can use the complaints procedure.

You can ask your care manager (or social worker) for a complaints form or ask them how you can make a complaint.

Please also see our fact sheet called 'What if I disagree with the resource allocation?'



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Your plan agreement

In Control recommends that local authorities agree plans in the way set out in this fact sheet.

However, some local authorities have their own way of agreeing a plan and say they cannot change.

It is possible to challenge their way of doing things, but not everyone will want to do that.



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We recommend that local authorities follow the guidelines in this fact sheet but not all of them do.

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An example:

George Doubleday

Thinking of my plan was quite a good experience because it gave me some time to think how I wanted my life to be, what I wanted to be doing. When you're on benefits, it's quite easy to drift.

The professionals' opinion was that I desperately needed a break. I thought it was a positive thing to spend some of the money on a holiday in Tunisia. It would be cheaper than going into some residential home for a break.

I phoned up my friend, Abraham, who was actually in the process of booking a holiday. I had recently told him that I was being allocated some money for a holiday and he asked would I like to go. And I said well, yes, that would be nice, you know, and he said we were going to Tunisia, and I asked how much it was and it was cheaper than being in some B&B in this country and I said "book it". He booked it and I wrote out a cheque to pay for it.



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Alternatives to traditional
respite.



Gill Stewart, Individual Budgets Project Lead, Norfolk County Council says:

‘In George’s case he was thinking in terms of having a holiday, so while he was actually writing his support plan he could just do it. I know that his Care Co-ordinator was talking about respite care for him and the respite care would have been in a registered home. So he would have a break from his home but it would not have been as life-enhancing, I think, as going somewhere like Tunisia.’

George’s plan was agreed.



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