

Self Directed Support (SDS) - Spending Your Personal Budget

All of your personal budget must be used by you to meet your assessed outcomes. All care and support is bespoke to you and it is up to you to decide what outcomes are most important for you to achieve each year.

All negotiated personal budget spend will be presented by the Care Manager to Senior Management who will consider each case on an individual basis, using a person centred, outcome focused approach. This decision making will be open and transparent across all service areas. The Council has the final decision on this.

Any equipment that you buy with your personal budget cannot be resold as it remains the property of the Local Authority.

You **cannot** spend your personal budget on anything that is not identified as an outcome within your support plan.

As illustrated below there are 3 areas to consider when deciding how to spend your personal budget:

- **RED you cannot spend your personal budget on these areas.**
- **GREEN you can spend your budget on these areas.**
- **AMBER you may be able to spend your budget on these areas after negotiation with your practitioner and there may be a cap on the amount you can spend on these areas.**

You cannot spend your budget on:

Anything that has not been identified and agreed through the assessment and support plan.	Rewards/gifts to unpaid carers – this should be paid from the supported person's income.	Client contributions for services, including respite which must be paid from your personal funds.	Paying or employing someone who is a Welfare or Financial Guardian or Power of Attorney or who holds parental rights and responsibilities.	Gambling including scratch cards, bingo, casinos, slot machines and online gambling.
Anything that is illegal.	Alcohol, tobacco products or e-cigarettes.	Insurance; car, home, holiday, personal or household items.	Permanent residential care and support.	Paying off debts.
Any specialist equipment or therapy that you have been assessed as requiring that will be provided directly by the NHS, Health and Social Care Partnership or the Local Authority such as: Housing, Education and Children's Services, Occupational Therapy, cannot be funded from your personal budget.	Supported person's food including teas/coffees on holiday or in respite.	Transport costs: taxis, petrol, transport, travel where in receipt of DLA mobility or PIP (mobility). It also can't be used for the charge for blue badge.	Household expenditure; rent or mortgage payments, utility bills, food/drink, furniture replacement, broadband.	

You can spend your personal budget on:

To achieve / meet your assessed outcomes.	Employing Personal Assistants when in receipt of Option 1 (Direct Payment).	Purchasing support from an agency / provider.	Live in carers.	Purchasing respite / holiday care.
Support to attend education, volunteering opportunities or employment.	Purchasing items activities and services that support you to meet your assessed outcomes and needs.	Statutory employment responsibilities and costs incurred when employing Personal Assistants (PA) for example: payroll, insurance, terms and conditions of employment.	Paying for activities, services and memberships for example: to be more involved in your community or gain access to leisure. Examples are joining a lunch club or gardening club.	

Negotiable with practitioner to meet a specific outcome:

Specialist equipment that is not directly provided by the NHS, Health and Social Care Partnership or the Local Authority.	Purchasing equipment or membership where there is evidence that this meets an outcome, for example: sports equipment, gym membership, horse riding lessons.	Short breaks or holidays as an alternative to respite. Where this meets identified outcome, (food should not be included in the cost).	Activities with an unpaid carer (identified and agreed in support plan), note the priority is to facilitate the supported person accessing the activity.	Travel costs in excess of DLA mobility this may be for transport and petrol to meet an assessed outcome.
Expenses: paid carers / PA's / support workers (not informal or family members) when accompanying the supported person on an outing or activity and the expense incurred is directly linked to an identified outcome, for example: developing life skills, social skills. Maximum allowance should be agreed from onset.	Startup costs (maximum of £450) when employing PA's and / or ongoing admin costs such as paper, postage, ink for printer etc incurred when managing your personal budget.	Where training has been identified for several PA's or specialist training the supported person can request additional funding to support worker development (only where the costs exceed any contingency monies).	Maintenance/running costs of equipment, anti-virus packages; where the personal budget has been used to purchase a piece of equipment you may or may not be allowed to pay for the maintenance of this item.	Leisure education that needs to be paid, for example: night classes where these cannot be accessed through other education channels.
Leisure and alternative therapies e.g. yoga, aromatherapy (within reasonable timescales and costs).	Eating out including teas/coffees only where this is to meet an assessed outcome.	Alternatives to residential nursing care.		

(Care manager has to consider type and cost of service or item to achieve or meet the identified outcomes – there may be a cap on the amount available to spend.)