

Will there be a charge for my support?

Whatever option you choose you may be financially assessed. You will be advised if you need to contribute towards your support and if so, how much.

What happens next?

Once your plan is agreed you can put your support in place. Your Actual Budget can be paid to you or used by us to pay for your chosen services. We will review how your plan is working, checking that your outcomes are being met and that you are managing your responsibilities in making the support plan work.

For further details on what happens next see [Factsheet 4 – Living your Life and making sure it all works](#).

Self Directed Support

Get in touch

If you or your representative would like more information, please contact:

Stirling Council

Municipal Buildings

8-10 Corn Exchange Road

Stirling

FK8 2HU

Tel: 01786 233759 Monday - Friday during office hours

Formats

Copies of our leaflets are available by request in a range of other languages, large print and on audio tape. To request articles in any of these formats please email or please call 01786 404040.



Self Directed Support is an approach to social care that offers you more control and choice over the support you receive.



The key benefits are:

- Choosing services that suit and improve your lifestyle
- Controlling your support at the level that works best for you
- More choice and flexibility

This means, if you are eligible for Social Care support, you will be allocated an Individual Budget. This budget will be based on an assessment we call an "Outcome Focussed Assessment". You can then have as much control of your Individual Budget and support arrangements as you want.

How can you receive Self-directed Support?

If you feel you need support to live your life safely and independently then you (or someone on your behalf) should contact us. Contact details are at the back of this leaflet. You will then be told if you are eligible for an assessment.

What is an assessment?

A Social Care worker will contact you. They will have a conversation with you about what is important to you, the things in your life you are managing and what you need support with. You will be asked what you are hoping to achieve with your life.

Will others be involved in your assessment?

Yes, with your agreement, the worker will speak to important people in your life. This might be relatives, friends, a nurse, GP, support worker or anyone you think can provide helpful information. The aim is to work out if you need support and what kind of support will best help you.

For further details on assessments see [Factsheet 1 – Outcome Focussed Assessment](#).

Is everyone eligible for support?

From your assessment we can work out if you are eligible for support. Unfortunately we can't help everyone. We use guidelines to decide who is eligible for support. These guidelines are called the "Assessment and Eligibility Framework" and are based on Government guidance. The aim is to make sure everyone has fair and equal access to Social Care services.

If we can't provide support we will explain our decision and give you information about other ways you might find help and support.

What happens if I am eligible for support?

If eligible, the information from your assessment will allow us to calculate your "estimated budget". This is not a final figure, but aims to give you an initial estimated amount which you can use as a guide to consider the best ways to arrange your support.

You can now decide how much control you want in arranging support to meet your outcomes. There are four options:

Option 1 – Direct Payment

Your Actual Budget will be paid (in instalments) into a bank account. This gives you the flexibility and choice to use this money to buy your own support.

Option 2 – Individual Budget

You can ask us (or, in the future, another person/agency) to hold your budget for you. You direct us how you wish to spend your Actual Budget.

Option 3 - Arranged Service

This involves you asking us to arrange and directly pay for the support you need. You will be consulted about any decisions and we will organise the support you need.

Option 4 – Combined Support

You can have a combination of the above options e.g. some support arranged by you and some by us.

For further details on the four options, see [Factsheet 2 – Self Directed Support Options](#).

Making a Support Plan

Once you have chosen your preferred option you develop your support plan. You can have help from family, friends, support organisations or your worker. The plan should state what you want to achieve and the support that is right for you. Your plan must then be agreed agreed with Social Services.

In most cases the plan will be agreed and your Actual Budget confirmed.

If your plan isn't agreed, it might be that your plan puts you or others at risk, or will not achieve your outcomes or the costs exceed your estimated budget.

For further details on making a support plan, see [Factsheet 3 – Making a Support Plan](#).