

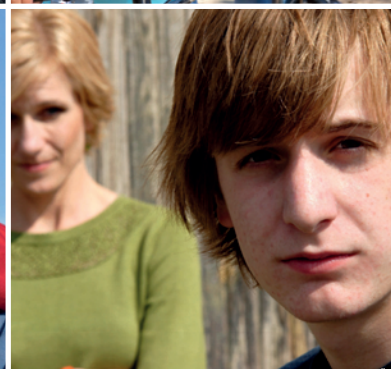
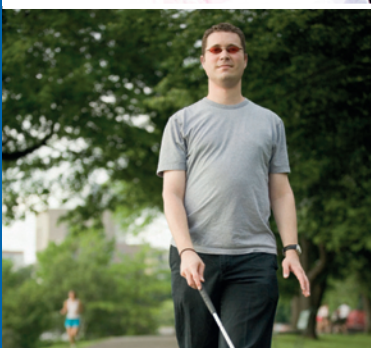


Clackmannanshire  
Council



# Self Directed Support

in Clackmannanshire and Stirling



# 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

It means, if you are eligible for social care support, that you will be allocated an Individual Budget. That budget will be based on an assessment of your need. 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 the Social Services. Contact details are at the end of this leaflet. You will then be told if you are eligible for an assessment of need.

## What is an assessment of need?

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 and 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 One – Assessments of Need*

## Is everyone eligible for support?

From your assessment we can work out if you are eligible for support. Unfortunately we are not able to help everyone. We use guidelines to decide who is eligible for support. These guidelines are called "Assessment and Eligibility Framework" and are based on Government guidance. Their aim is to make sure that everyone has fair and equal access to support.

If we cannot 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 social services to calculate your “estimated budget”. This is not a final figure. The aim is to give you an initial estimated amount so you can use this as a guide to help think about the best ways, for you, to arrange your support.

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

### **Option One – Direct Payment**

Your Individual 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 Two – Individual Service Fund**

You can ask social services (or, in the future, another person/agency) to hold your budget for you. You direct them how you wish to spend this money to achieve what you need.

### **Option Three - Arranged Service**

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

### **Option Four – Combined Support**

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

For further details on the four options see *Factsheet Two – SDS Options*

## Making a Support Plan

Once you have chosen your preferred option you now develop your support plan. You can have help from family, friends, support organisations and social services staff. The plan should state what you want to achieve and the supports that are right for you. Your plan must then be agreed with social services.

In most cases the plan will be agreed. Reasons not to agree might be that your plan puts you or others at risk, or will not achieve the outcomes you wish or if the costs will be in excess of your estimated budget.

For further details on making a support plan see *Factsheet Three – Making a Support Plan*

## 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 to the costs of support and, if so, how much.

## What happens next?

Once your plan is agreed you can put your support in place. Your Individual Budget can be paid to you or used by social services 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 Four – Living Your Life and Making Sure it all Works*

## Get in touch

If you or your family would like more information about Self Directed Support, please contact us

### Clackmannanshire Council

Phone: 01259 450000  
Kilncraigs  
Greenside Street  
Alloa  
FK10 1EB

### Stirling Council

Phone: 01786 471177  
Municipal Buildings  
8-10 Corn Exchange Road  
Stirling  
FK8 2HU

You can also email us at [selfdirectedsupport@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:selfdirectedsupport@stirling.gov.uk)

### 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 call 0845 277 7000.

