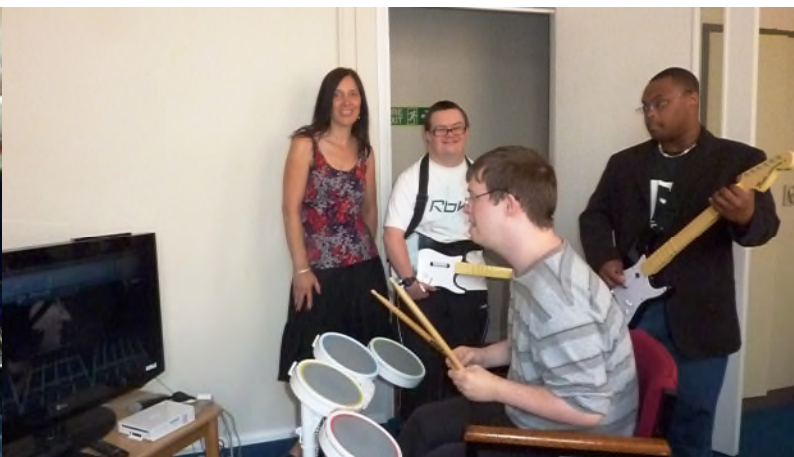


Self-Directed Support and Personal Budgets



What is Self-Directed Support and Personal Budgets?

Merton Council is committed to supporting all our residents to stay healthy and actively involved in community life for as long as possible.

Self-directed support is the name given to the system the Council is adopting to ensure local people, over eighteen, with ongoing personal care and support needs, have access to the best possible advice and support about how their needs are met.

Self-directed support recognises that you are the expert on your own needs and is the way that you will be able to manage your own care and support, in order to achieve your desired outcomes and improve the quality of your life. It is about making services more individual or personalised to meet your needs and means that you will have more choice, control and independence. It enables you to be at the centre of assessing your own needs and personalising your own care and support.

Where people have ongoing personal care and support needs, we can help by working out with you what your individual needs are and calculating the approximate cost of meeting your needs. In many cases the Council will contribute, either fully or partly to these costs by offering a **Personal Budget**. The size of this contribution will be dependant on an assessment of your individual financial circumstances.

The idea behind giving every eligible person a Personal Budget, instead of the Council providing services directly, is that we want you to be in the driving seat of how your support is arranged, and to give you maximum control over how the money is spent.

The 7-step process to Self-Directed Support

1. Identify your needs: Merton Adult Access Team (MAAT) will help identify your needs. If you are already in contact with us then whoever you are liaising with will ensure you get the right information about what you need to do.

You will be sent an information leaflet and a Self Assessment Questionnaire for you to complete and return to the council.

The Council will contact you first to go through your SAQ, and again to do a financial assessment of your circumstances.

2. Find out your Indicative Allocation: If you're eligible for Self-Directed Support, the council will send you a letter advising you of the approximate amount it will cost to meet your eligible needs. This should arrive within four weeks of the Council receiving your completed SAQ and undertaking a financial assessment of your circumstances.

3. Plan your support: With this letter you will receive a Support Plan Template to help you develop your own personal support plan. You need to complete this and return it to the Council. There are three ways to get help:

1. The Support Planning Service: this service is hosted by Merton Vision, Merton Mencap and Age Concern
2. The Council's Direct Payments Support Planning Service
3. A social care practitioner can help you with your support plan

4. Decide how you will manage your Personal Budget: You choose how you want to receive your personal budget – as a Direct Payment to yourself or a nominated representative, as Directly Provided Services (the Council will manage your personal budget and arrange services from its contracted providers on your behalf), or a combination of both. See options above for who can assist you with this.

5. Get your Support Plan agreed: The Council must validate that your support plan is effective, affordable, lawful and safe. Once this is done, the Council will send you a letter confirming your Personal Budget (allow four weeks from start of support planning until support is arranged).

6. Arrange your support: If you have chosen to have a Direct Payment for some or all of your personal budget, someone from the Direct Payments team will contact you to help you arrange your support.

If you have chosen to have your support directly provided by the Council on your behalf, you will be informed of when your support will commence. Your support should start within four weeks of being told your indicative allocation.

7. Review: Within six to eight weeks of you commencing your support package your support planner will contact you to check that your personal budget is working, and your needs are being met.

The Council will continue to review your circumstances at appropriate intervals during the year.

If you would like more information in your own language, please contact us at the address shown in the box below.

Request for document translation

Self-Directed Support and Personal Budgets customer leaflet

If you need any part of this document explained in your language, please tick box and contact us either by writing or by phone using our contact details below.

- Albanian **Nëse ju nevojitet ndonjë pjesë e këtij dokumenti e shpjeguar në gjuhën amtare ju lutemi shenojeni kutinë dhe na kontaktoni duke përdorur detajet e mëposhtme.**
- Bengali এই তথ্যের কোনো অংশ আপনার নিজ ভাষায় বুঝতে চাইলে, দয়া করে বাস্তবীভূত (বক্স) টিক চিহ্ন দিন এবং চিঠি লিখে বা ফোন করে আমাদের সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন। নিচে যোগাযোগের বিবরণ দেওয়া হয়েছে।
- French **Si vous avez besoin que l'on vous explique une partie de ce document dans votre langue, cochez la case et contactez-nous par courrier ou par téléphone à nos coordonnées figurant ci-dessous.**
- Korean 만일 본 서류의 어떤 부분이라도 귀하의 모국어로 설명된 것이 필요하다면, 상자속에 표시를하고 우리에게 전화나 서신으로 연락하십시오.
- Polish **Aby otrzymać część tego dokumentu w polskiej wersji językowej proszę zaznaczyć kwadrat i skontaktować się z nami drogą pisemną lub telefoniczną pod poniżej podanym adresem lub numerem telefonu.**
- Portuguese Caso você necessite qualquer parte deste documento explicada em seu idioma, favor assinalar a quadrícula respectiva e contatar-nos por escrito ou por telefone usando as informações para contato aqui fornecidas.
- Somali **Haddii aad u baahan tahay in qayb dukumeentigan ka mid ah laguugu sharxo luqaddaada, fadlan sax ku calaamadee sanduuqa oo nagula soo xiriir warqad ama telefoon adigoo isticmaalaya macluumaadka halka hoose ku yaalla.**
- Spanish **Si desea que alguna parte de este documento se traduzca en su idioma, le rogamos marque la casilla correspondiente y que nos contacte bien por escrito o telefónicamente utilizando nuestra información de contacto que encontrará más abajo.**
- Tamil இந்தப் பத்திரத்தின் எந்தப் பகுதியும் உங்களின் மொழியில் விளக்கப்படுவது உங்களுக்கு வேண்டுமானால், தயவுசெய்து பெட்டியில் அடையாளமிட்டு, கீழுள்ள எங்களின் விபரங்களைப் பயன்படுத்தி எழுத்துமூலமாக அல்லது தொலைபேசி மூலமாக எங்களைத் தொடர்புகொள்ளவும்.
- Urdu اگر آپ اس دستاویز کے کسی حصے کا ترجمہ اپنی زبان میں حاصل کرنا چاہتے ہیں تو دیئے گئے باکس میں صحیح کا نشان لگائیے اور ہمارے درج ذیل رابطے پر یا ٹیلیفون کے ذریعے یا پھر تحریری طور پر رابطہ کریں۔

You can also get this information in large print, in Braille and on audio tape

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