



**Easy read**

# How the local council decides who can get help and support

Self-directed support: an Easy Read guide to getting the help and support you need





## Self-directed support: an Easy Read guide to getting the help and support you need

**Self-directed support** is all about being able to choose the help and support you want.



We are writing lots of fact sheets to help you. Each one tells you more about **self-directed support** and where you can go to find out more information.



This fact sheet tells you about **how the local council decides who can get help and support**. The **local council** is in charge of things in the area where you live. This means things like deciding who can get help and support.



This fact sheet tells you more about how the local council decide who gets help and support.

# How the local council decide things to do with help and support



The **local council** has to follow what **the government** says about help and support. **The government** is in charge of running the country.



The government wrote some rules for the local council to follow. These rules tell the local council more about how they decide who can get help and support.



For example, some people will need lots of help and support. The local council will look at everything about the person and their life before they decide what to do. They will have to decide if they have enough money to pay for the help and support.

The local council decide this by looking at whether the person can



- do things on they own
- choose things on their own
- stay safe
- look after themselves – this means things like keeping clean and getting dressed
- do things with their family
- do things in the area where they live



# How the local council decides who can get help and support



Local councils have to decide who gets help and support. Some of them can only give help and support to people who have a lot of needs or are **at risk**. **At risk** means that the person is not able to stay safe because they are ill or someone is doing bad things to them.



The council will look at the needs of 4 different groups of people before they decide who can get help and support.

They will look at

## 1. People who have a lot of needs or who are at risk

This means people who



- are not able to stay safe because they are ill or someone is doing bad things to them



- cannot do things for themselves like washing or things around the house
- cannot do things like going to work or learning new things
- find it hard to have friends or be with their family

## 2. People who have a lot of needs but are not at risk

This means people who



- have had bad things happen to them but it was not serious
- can do some things around the house but not many
- cannot do things like going to work or learning new things
- find it hard to have friends or be with their family

### 3. People who have some needs but are not at risk

This means people who



- can do some things around the house but still need some help
- cannot do things like going to work or learning new things
- find it hard to have friends or be with their family

### 4. People who do not have a lot of needs

This means people who



- can do most things around the house but need help with one or two things
- can do some work or learn new things but still need help sometimes
- have friends and see their family but sometimes need extra support

# More about how the local council decides who can get help and

The local council has to think about what is best for the person before they decide what to do. They will think about



- everything that is happening in the person's life – for example are they able to stay safe
- making sure they listen to what the person wants and treats them in a good and fair way
- making sure the person is able to choose what they want to do with their life
- finding out what the person wants to happen – they will know best about how they want to live their life



When the local council has found out everything they need to know, they will decide what to do.



If they decide that a person needs help and support they might give them a **Personal Budget**. A **Personal Budget** is money you can get to pay for help and support.



Anyone can ask the local council for help and support. The local council will have to follow the same rules for everyone before they can decide who can get help and support.



Not everyone will be able to get money to pay for help and support. The local council will ask more questions about the money someone is already getting before they can give them any more money to pay for help and support.

## How to find out more

You can find out more about what the government are doing to make things fair with help and support by going to



**[www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk)**

You can find out more about staying in control by going to

**[www.in-control.org.uk](http://www.in-control.org.uk)**



You can **download** the information on your computer. **Download** means saving information on your computer so you can look at it when you are ready.



You can **download** a DVD to watch on your computer by going to

**[www.in-control.org.uk/dvd](http://www.in-control.org.uk/dvd)**

You can buy the DVD and books that tell more on the internet by going to



**[www.in-control.org.uk/shop](http://www.in-control.org.uk/shop)**

Or you can buy the DVD and the books from



In Control Support Centre  
Carillon House  
Chapel Lane  
Wythall  
B47 6JX

## How to get help



To get more help you can contact the Learning Disability Helpline. You can do this by



Telephone **0808 808 1111**



Text **07717 989 029**



Email **help@mencap.org.uk**



If you want to read more fact sheets, you can go to **www.mencap.org.uk/incontrol**