

## Will I to contribute towards my individual Budget?

You might - you will also be asked to give some information about your income, benefits and savings. Depending on the level of these you may have to contribute towards the cost of your care. You will be told about any charge before anything is arranged for you and your Individual Budget will be paid NET of the charge.



## How can I take my Individual Budgets?

An Individual Budget is a sum of money that is based on your level of need. The higher your needs the more money you will be allocated. The budget can be spent on support or a combination of support, from many different areas and is very flexible. The budget can be spent on employing someone to help via a Direct Payment, buying support direct from an agency, going on outings or training. It can also be used to pay for care from current providers so existing service users can keep these services if they want.



For more information contact; Nana Enchill

TEL: 020 3270 3039

Email: [individualbudgets@acwestminster.org.uk](mailto:individualbudgets@acwestminster.org.uk)

[www.acwestminster.org.uk](http://www.acwestminster.org.uk)



Charity Number: 1018300

Chief Executive: Martin J Davies  
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# Individual Budgets

Self Directed Support  
& Care Brokerage.

**AGE Concern** Westminster

## What is an Individual budget?

Individual budgets are designed to help older people take control of their care needs, manage their support and choose services which best suit them in later life; whether they are able to fund their own services or receive support from the council.

## How can Age Concern Westminster help me if I can fund my own services?

- Help to find a carer, agency or any other services that you may require.
- Provide assistance with completing paper work
- Advice on your responsibilities of being an employer
- Ongoing information, advice and guidance

## How can I benefit if I receive services from the council?

If you receive support/services from the council, a sum of money will be allocated to you to spend on arranging your own support instead of the council arranging services for you. The money the council allocates to you is known as an Individual Budget. Age Concern Westminster will help you arrange your support.



## What can I spend my budget on?

You can spend your Individual Budget on anything so long as it is not illegal.

For example

- You might want to employ a personal assistant. These can be friends or members of your family.
- What about a piece of equipment? There are lots of new things that can help you keep your independence.
- You can buy support from an agency if you want.



## Who decides how much money I get to spend?

A worker from the Council or Age Concern Westminster will go through an assessment with you which will determine the amount of support you need.



## Individual budgets will;

- Give you a clear idea about how much money is there for your support.
- Bring together different kinds of funding from more than one agency
- Allow you to use the money in a way that best suits your needs and situation
- Gives you greater choice and control over the services you receive
- Allow you to develop your own support plan, outlining what you want, when you want it and how you want it delivered.