

## **What is an Individual Budget?**

The idea behind individual budgets is to enable people needing social care and associated services to design that support and to give them the power to decide the nature of the services they need. Key features are:

- A transparent allocation of resources, giving individuals a clear cash or notional sum for them to use on their care or support package
- A streamlined assessment process across agencies, meaning less time spent giving information
- Bringing together a variety of streams of support and/or funding, from more than one agency.
  - ⇒ Council-provided social care services
  - ⇒ Independent Living Fund
  - ⇒ DWP Money
- Giving individuals the ability to use the budget in a way that best suits their own particular requirements
- Support from a broker or advocate, family or friends, as the individual desires.

## **What is a Direct Payment?**

- Direct Payments are cash payments made in lieu of social service provisions, to individuals who have been assessed as needing services.
- They can be made to disabled people aged 16 or over, to people with parental responsibility for disabled children, and to carers aged 16 or over in respect of carer services.
- The aim of a direct payment is to give more flexibility in how services are provided to many individuals who are assessed eligible for social services support.
- By giving individuals money in lieu of social care services people have greater choice and control over their lives, and are able to make their own decisions about how their care is delivered.

## **What is an Indirect Payment?**

- An Indirect Payment is a 'Individualised Budget Payment' or a 'Direct Payment' that has to be issued Indirectly to a Service User i.e. through a family member or advocate because the Service User receiving the payment is unable to manage his/her finances.

## **What is the difference between an IB and a DP?**

I asked three people currently working for WSCC in different roles and this was their feedback...

- DPs are funded from one funding stream, so you can only receive your community care needs via a DP. However IB enables you to get a range of services through one payment, eg supporting people, com care and ILF to support a range of needs
- Direct Payment is an element of an Individualised Budget
- DP - Money given to you by the Local Authority for Social Care services.  
IB - Money given to you from Social Services and DWP. In IB you can also receive a service from social care - Direct Payments you can't.