

Isle of Anglesey Council

Supporting People Individual Budgets

Draft Guidance

April 2013

An 'Individual Budget' is the amount of money that a provider has allocated within its service budget for service users as part of the provision of housing related support. An Individual Budget can be used to help a service user achieve positive outcomes.

Services currently offering an Individual Budget are:

- Core and Cluster Service for Young People (DYM)
- Floating Support Service for Young People (DYM)
- Housing First for homeless people and rough sleepers (The Wallich)

Examples of how other people are using their Individual Budgets

The increased choice and control provided by a Individual Budget can enable people who use housing related support services to meet their needs in a far greater variety of ways than was possible before.

Money from an individual budget can be used where it has been identified in a support plan that it will assist in achieving an outcome.

In every case listed below, the relevant local council was satisfied that the activity or item paid for was directly related to meeting needs for which the Budget was provided.

- fees for singing lessons
- fees for horse riding lessons and the necessary clothing
- travelling abroad for a short break
- travelling abroad to see relatives
- hairdressing equipment
- a music-composing computer programme
- a graphic art computer programme
- exercise equipment
- driving lessons
- a car
- a shed, gardening tools and plants

- fees for a gardening tutor
- fees for security guard training
- tennis club membership
- decorating and re-carpeting a flat
- transport to pick children up from school
- gym membership
- cinema tickets
- african drumming lessons
- jazz music lessons
- MBA course fees
- A tattoo apprenticeship.

What can't an Individual Budget be used for?

An Individual Budget cannot be used:

- for anything that is not directly related to meeting your eligible housing related support needs
- for things which the council has prohibited. These include gambling, debt repayment, alcohol and tobacco, anything which is illegal, and anything which will cause harm to the service user or other people
- to meet needs in ways which are solely the responsibility of the NHS, such as the provision of medication.
- Food
- Utility Bills
- Things that are freely available elsewhere

How much is available?

A maximum of £1000 per person per year

When can the first payment be made and how often?

Immediately in Floating Support?

After 3 months in accommodation based?

Can be one off payment or regular payment?

Support Planning

The Support Worker will work with the service user to identify needs and develop the support plan. The Support Worker will discuss the individual budget with the service user. The IB can be used to achieve the outcomes that the service user wishes to achieve and has identified in the support plan.

Sign off the support plan and expenditure will be determined by each provider.
Expenditure on IB must be recorded in support planning records.

Contract Management

The provider will keep accurate records of expenditure including receipts. An accurate record of total expenditure will be kept. The Contracts Officer will monitor that accurate records are kept.

The payment of IB to the provider is part of the SPG at an agreed sum. There is no requirement to authorise individual expenditure by SP.

Where the expenditure on IB's is less than 90% of the allocated amount, the under-spend may be recovered.