

What carer's direct payments can be spent on

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The carer's personal budget can be used in all kinds of ways: it can be used to pay for anything that will support the carer in their caring role and that has been agreed in the carer's support plan. Once this has been agreed the carer will receive a pre-paid card from the Council. This card can be reused in future years should the carer be eligible for a personal budget again.

Here are some ways that the carer may want to spend their personal budget:

- help with housework and gardening
- travel expenses or fees to take up leisure or education activities
- health promotion activities such as exercise classes, gym membership, massages or relaxation or complementary therapies
- practical things such as a washing machine, dishwasher or a laptop
- a short holiday to recharge their batteries
- theatre tickets or day trips
- driving lessons
- a meal in a restaurant
- a mobile phone
- leisure classes to relieve stress

The budget cannot be spent on any illegal activities, or on alcohol, gambling, debt, smoking, groceries or respite for the cared for person. Respite must come under the cared for person's package of support from the Council. Only in exceptional circumstances can respite be considered.

The carer will be asked by the council at the annual review to demonstrate how they have spent their budget.