

# How We Decided your Estimated Carers Budget

Version 9



## What is a Carers Estimated Personal Budget?

Your Carers Estimated Personal Budget (EPB) is an indication of how much money we (your council) think will help support you with your mental and/or physical well-being, as well as your eligible social care outcomes.

The Carers EPB is used as a basis for Support Planning.

## Who receives a Carers Estimated Personal Budget?

You're a carer if you're providing necessary care to another adult (including family members) – for example, if they need help due to an illness or disability. Carers might help with emotional support, as well as practical things such as:

- washing, dressing or taking medicines
- getting out and about and travelling to doctors' appointments
- shopping, cleaning and laundry
- paying bills and organising finances
- watching over someone if they can't be left alone

We (your council) must do an assessment for any carer who we think may need support now, or in the future. Your assessment should look at what you want to do in your day-to-day life and at what is important to you.

If your assessment determines that you have eligible needs, you may receive a Carers Estimated Personal Budget. The eligible outcomes as set out in the Care Act (2014) are:

- Your ability to maintain a habitable home environment in your own home
- Your ability to manage and maintain your nutrition
- Your ability in carrying out any caring responsibilities for a child
- Your ability to provide care to other persons for whom you provide care
- Your ability to develop and maintain family or other personal relationships
- Your ability to make use of necessary facilities or services in the local community
- Your ability to engage in recreational activities
- Your ability to access and engage in work, training, education or volunteering

## How we decided your Estimated Personal Budget

Firstly, a Carer's Need Band is calculated based on the information captured during your assessment. The Need Band is calculated based on:

- The degree to which your well-being is affected by any challenges you have in meeting your outcomes, and;
- The risk of your physical and/or mental health getting worse.

We may also take into account the amount of care and support you provide in an average week.

For each of these bands we will have configured an EPB figure and information statement. This figure is based on the paid and unpaid services available to carers locally.

## What if you think the budget is too little or too much?

No approach is perfect and everyone's personal situation is different. This is why we calculate an Estimated Personal Budget (EPB).

If you feel the budget is not realistic, for example it is either too low or too high, the first step is to establish whether you feel that your needs as a carer have been recorded correctly in your assessment.

It is important to note that even if you are eligible for support, you may not be offered an EPB. It may be the case that there are local services available which may be better suited to help you meet your outcomes.

It is also important to remember that no final decision has yet been made about your actual budget – which may be different from the indicative figure due to your specific personal circumstances, as well as factors such as variation in the local cost and availability of the particular type of support that you require. Your actual personal budget will only be confirmed following the process of preparing and agreeing your Support Plan.