



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

Personal Budgets in Derby

Real Examples

1. Joyce: An older person with Dementia

Joyce Fairing (not her real name), from Alvaston, had experienced adult social care in the past when her husband was alive. There were 3 visits a day from carers coming in to help her husband. She never knew who was coming, exactly what time they were coming or how long they would be there for.

So when Joyce's daughter Sarah suggested it might be time for her to have some help for herself, she was dead set against having anyone from adult social care.

Sarah took it upon herself to help and care for her mum but eventually it was beginning to take its toll and Sarah was feeling unwell with the added stress and pressure of looking after her mum and her disabled husband.

Sarah heard about Personal Budgets from her sister who used to work for adult social care. So Sarah, her sister and her daughter all decided along with Joyce that they would give the Personal Budget a go and share the responsibility of caring for Joyce amongst them.

Sarah's sister introduced someone else she used to work with (Claire) to Joyce to see if they got on and to increase the number of carers from 3 to 4. Joyce and Claire got on great and so, Joyce used her Personal Budget to employ the 4 carers to look after her.

Sarah does all the paperwork for her mum, sorting out the rotas and managing the Personal Budget. Sarah said "I thought it would be very difficult to start with, managing all the paperwork but I've had lots of help from Disability Direct and my mums care manager, they are always available if I have any questions or need any help with the paperwork, they really have been great"

"Being employed as my mum's carer and spreading the work between four of us has really made a difference to my mum. We all know mum very well, we know what she likes, when she likes to get up and go to bed. It's a very personal service. We all know and understand her dementia and how to help her"

Being part of a team allows Sarah to take a step back from being her mum's carer sometimes and gives her the chance to be her daughter again, spending quality time together with her mum. The Personal Budget has allowed Joyce to stay living at home, exactly where she wants to be. Joyce has a carelink service too just in case something happens when she is on her own.

Sarah said she no longer feels like she is running around, the care is much more structured and rewarding and her mum is much happier.

2. Linda Moseley (not her real name): A carer

I had arranged for my husband to go into respite care whilst I took a much needed break. I had booked a coach trip to Ireland, a place that had been on my wish list for a very long time. I had no idea how I was going to pay for this trip but intended to go whatever.

Shortly before I was due to pay the balance I received a phone call from Social Services explaining that there were funds available to help Carers take a break and would I like to apply for a payment. As you can imagine this came as most welcome news and my overworked credit card breathed a sigh of relief.

I immediately sent off copies of my booking form and was delighted to receive a further call telling me that I had been granted the maximum amount of £500 to help towards my holiday. The cheque arrived a few days later and I was overjoyed to be able to visit Killarney where my maternal Grandmother had been born.

I was very impressed with the simplicity of the system and the kindness and courtesy of the Council Staff involved.

3. Jason: A younger person with learning disabilities

I lived with 18. Now it's just me... Staff come and sleep in then leave the next day and more staff come in... I do have a good life. I play guitar in a band...I wasn't allowed the internet before (in the residential home) but I have it now. I am in a pool league and go fishing. I caught a 12lb carp in March. I used to fish once a month in my last place but now I do it twice a week". Staff sort stuff out.. I have my own life. I do my own thing. I work on Monday mornings. I see my friends on my own and If I go down town or to the pub or shops I go with staff. I have my own keys.

Jason's support worker (who used to work in residential care) said "supported living is much more person centred. It's not about people being lumped together for convenience. People are treated as individuals. Jason is working towards doing more things, a few steps at a time. A big goal for him is to go to Nottingham on his own but the short goals are to go to the local shops on his own."

4. Lily: An older disabled person

Lily Grainger (not her real name), from Alvaston, is an older disabled person who has had home helps in the past. Unfortunately the service Lily had received wasn't really tailored to her own needs.

Carers would often be late, they wouldn't have time to provide a proper service and Lily always felt she had to fit around them.

For a long time, Lily was scared that if she complained about the service, it would be taken away.

Through various meetings, Lily had heard about Personalisation and Personal Budgets and she decided it was about time she gave it a go.

Lily's granddaughter, Louise, had just left school at the time and unfortunately had just missed out on a college placement. Lily asked Louise if she would like to be employed as her personal assistant (PA). Louise thought this was great idea.

Louise is employed for 13 hours a week to look after Lily who said "Louise is really good, she knows me very well and she has always been a very caring person, that's why I asked her if she wanted to be my PA. Louise does lots of things 'with' me and that is so much better than having everything done 'for' me"

Whilst being Lily's PA, Louise also started an apprenticeship and has gained a full qualification. Her employers are very understanding and if Lily needs Louise for something urgently, her employers allow her the flexibility to fulfil her PA role.

Lily has her Personal Budget paid into a bank account and Disability Direct manages the payroll for Louise on her behalf. Lily also knows that her care manager is always on hand if she has any problems or needs any advice.

The Personal Budget has meant that Lily is no longer wondering who will be coming next, if they will be coming at all and what they would be doing for her. Having a PA means that Lily gets the care and support she wants.

5. Mary: A carer

Mary Sinnet's (not her real name) husband, Shaun, was recently diagnosed with Alzheimers and found that looking after Shaun, the house and the garden was all a bit too much. With the Personal Budget, Mary has taken on a gardener who visits every two weeks and does all the big maintenance jobs that Shaun used to do but no longer could.

The Personal Budget has meant that it's one less worry for Mary as she wasn't able to maintain such a large garden and was concerned it would distress her husband if it became overgrown and unkempt.

It has made such a difference as they can still both enjoy the garden and still potter in it together.

6. Anne: A carer

"I sold my house and gave up my job and became a full-time unpaid carer so that my elderly relative could continue to live in her own home. I built a downstairs extension for her and I moved into the upstairs. I used the personalised budget to pay for legal advice to ensure that I would always have a roof over my head, whatever might happen in the future. That advice eased my mind and reduced my worry and stress. I can now focus on doing my best for the person I care for."

7. Jo: A carer

"I use my personalised budget to go to dance/zumba classes. These classes are a life-line to me. They keep my body fit and help reduce my stress and anxiety levels. I enjoy the classes so much. I feel I need to be physically fit to be a carer. The classes help me to be a much better carer than I would be if I was never able to get out."