

POOLED BUDGETS IN SELF-DIRECTED SUPPORT EASY READ REPORT

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in  **Control**[®]
Scotland

IN CONTROL SCOTLAND

In Control Scotland is a Scottish charity that works with disabled people, local councils, and support providers.



They work to make care and support fairer for people.

They focus on self-directed support, which means that disabled people and unpaid carers are in control of the support they receive.

A guide to the Social Care
(Self-directed Support)
(Scotland) Act 2013

Easy Read version



The Scottish Government has made a copy for you which will be sent to you. This guide is for you and the people you care for.



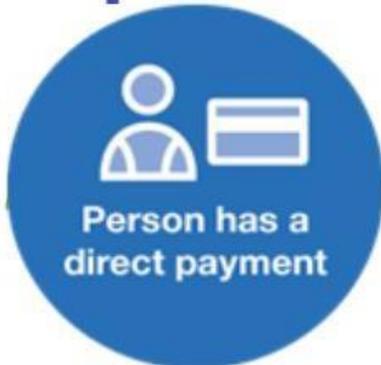
If you would like to read more about self-directed support, the Scottish Government have an easy read guide here: [A Guide to the Self-directed Support \(Scotland\) Act 2013 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

THE FOUR OPTIONS



In self-directed support there are four options that disabled people and unpaid carers can choose. These are:

Option 1



Option 1 – you take a direct payment.

This means the local council decide how much money can be spent on your support. You take this money and arrange your own support, employ care staff, or buy a service from a care organisation.

Option 2



Option 2 – you decide, and someone else arranges the support.

This means that the local council decide how much money can be spent on your support. You can choose a care organisation that you work with together to help you achieve the things in your support plan.

Option 3



Option 3 – the local council decides and arranges support.

This means that the local council decide how much money can be spent on your support. You ask the local council to choose and arrange the support that it thinks is right for you.

Option 4



Option 4 – a mix of any of the options, 1-3, to suit you.

POOLED BUDGETS RESEARCH

The law says that people should have flexibility across all of the options.



Pooling budgets is a way that people can use their budgets flexibly. This means two or more people put their budgets together to share support.



In Control Scotland asked Dr Danielle Farrel to look into pooled budgets.

They did this because they felt that not very many people were pooling their budgets.



Danielle spoke to 31 people who work for:

- local councils
- support providers
- charities that give advice.

She wanted to find examples of people pooling their budgets.

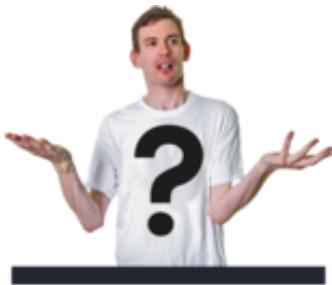


Danielle found there were not very many examples of people pooling their budgets.

People faced barriers in being able to pool their budgets.



One of the barriers was around the paperwork local councils use. The paperwork does not make it clear enough how people can pool their budgets.



Local councils do not share information about pooling budgets with people using self-directed support. This means lots of people don't know that they can pool their budgets.



Another barrier was for people who wanted to share a Personal Assistant. It was not clear who would be the employer if more than one person used the same Personal Assistant.



Some people thought that it would be good to have a separate person to help people manage this. This person should be independent, not working for the council.



Danielle found some good examples of people pooling budgets.

These were from support providers who supported people to live together in services.

But sometimes staff in these services did not understand how it worked.



Some people were worried that people who pool their budgets might have their budgets cut. Other people wanted to make sure that it was all done fairly.



The people Danielle interviewed thought it would be helpful to have more guidance to help people pool their budgets. This guidance would include help to understand how to keep things fair for people pooling their budgets.

The report ends with 4 recommendations.

1.



There should be guidance about pooling budgets, for people in local councils and for people using self-directed support.

2.



There should be more examples of people pooling their budgets so that people can understand how it works.

3.

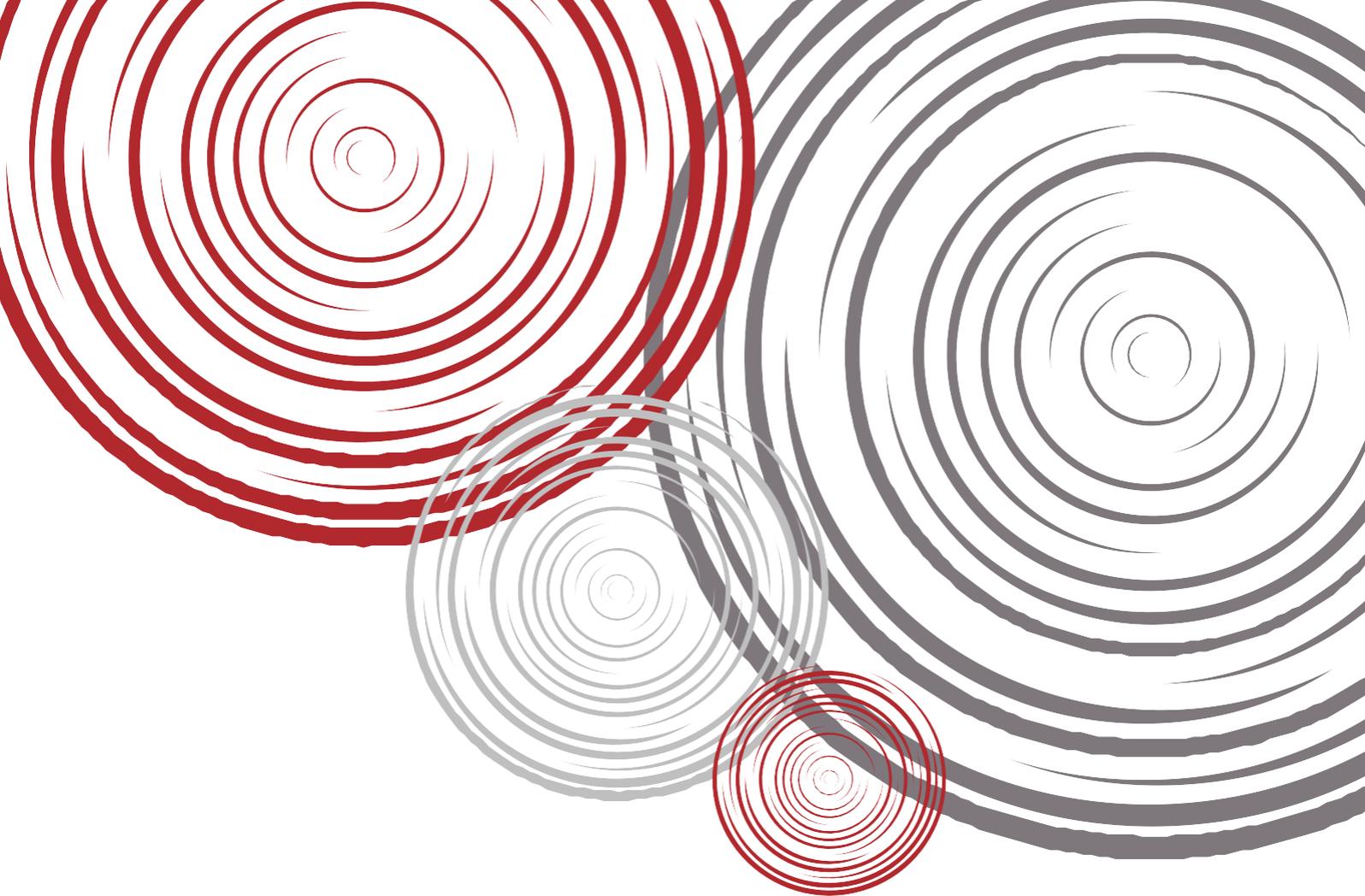


Local councils should share information about pooling budgets on their website, and in the information that they give to people using self-directed support.

4.



We should look into having an independent person to help people manage their budgets.



To find out more about our work:

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