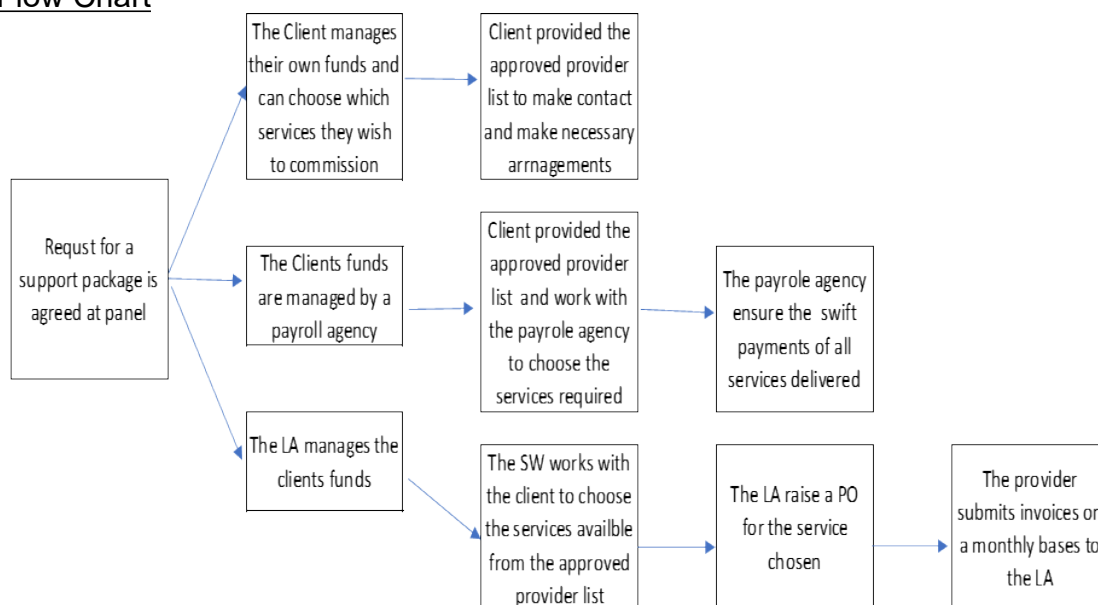


The Flow Chart



Payment mechanisms for purchasing care and support

What is a personal budget?

Personal budget is the amount of money the council will pay towards any social care and support that is required by the service user. The amount of money in the service users' personal budget is decided by the council after a needs assessment has been undertaken:

- what kind of care and support the service user may require;
- how much it will cost;
- how much the service user can afford.

Managing service users personal budget

The service user can pay the money to another organisation, such as a 'payroll agency', who will pay the money directly to the service user or someone they choose, this is also known as a direct payment. The service user can also choose a combination of these options, for example, the council could arrange some of their care but send the service user the rest of the money. This is often called a mixed package or "mix and match".

If the council manages the service users money

The money in the personal budget, which can be spent on the service users behalf by the council, who will arrange all their care and support which will be based on the care plan.

If the service users money is paid to another organisation

The organisation the service user chooses, such as a particular care provider, the council will be able to arrange the payments.

The benefits of direct payments

Direct payments give the service user flexibility over how their care and support is arranged and provided.