What are Personal Wheelchair Budget Options?
The Personal Wheelchair Budget (PWB) has been designed to provide wheelchair users with greater choice regarding their wheelchair provision. This enhanced scheme has replaced the previous Wheelchair Voucher Scheme.

Will I need to be assessed if I would like a PWB?
Yes. You will be invited to attend a clinic appointment where your wheelchair clinician will assess your wheelchair needs. Any questions you may have can be answered during this appointment. Your wheelchair clinician will discuss with you your personal wheelchair support plan during this appointment.

What options will I have?
There are 3 options:

1. Notional Personal Wheelchair Budget (standard NHS Provision). This enables you to have a wheelchair from the NHS range through the wheelchair service. The value of the PWB is the amount it would cost the NHS to provide a wheelchair to meet your clinical needs.

2. Notional Personal Wheelchair Budget with Top Up for extra features. This option allows you or another agency such as a voluntary/charitable organisation to contribute to your PWB to add extra features to your wheelchair. Your wheelchair clinician will be able to advise you on your choice of extra features. The wheelchair service will not be responsible for the repair and maintenance of any extra features added.

3. Third Party option. In discussion with your wheelchair clinician, if it is clinically appropriate, you can choose to use your PWB as a contribution to buying a wheelchair from an independent retailer outside of the NHS. Your choice will need to be approved as clinically appropriate by your wheelchair clinician. You can only use your PWB for the same category of chair. For example, a PWB for a manual wheelchair must only be used for the purchase of a manual wheelchair. A voluntary/charitable organisation could also support you financially with this option.

The value of the third party PWB is the amount it would cost the NHS to provide a wheelchair to meet your essential clinical needs plus a contribution toward repair and maintenance by the wheelchair service.

Maintenance and Insurance
It is important to regularly maintain and repair your wheelchair. A typical adult wheelchair lasts 5 years but only 3 years for children as their needs have to be reassessed more regularly because of growth. Public Liability Insurance is strongly recommended if you are using your wheelchair in a public place. Your Third Party PWB includes a contribution towards your repairs and maintenance.

If you are intending to travel in a vehicle whilst seated in your wheelchair, please ensure that the wheelchair model you have chosen has been crash tested by the manufacturer.

A Personal Wheelchair Support Plan
Before your assessment you will be asked to think about the things that are important to you. You will be asked to complete a short Personal Wheelchair Support Plan which will help you and the clinician to find the most appropriate wheelchair for your needs.

How do I arrange to be assessed?
If you are known to the Wheelchair Service, you can call and request a reassessment. If you do not currently have a wheelchair issued by the Wheelchair Service, your G.P. or healthcare professional can refer you for an assessment.

How is payment made?
If you choose Notional Option 2 with Top-Up the wheelchair service will invoice you for any extra features. If you choose the Third Party option the wheelchair service will make a payment directly to your chosen supplier. If the value of your PWB is greater than the cost of the chosen equipment, then the supplier will receive a payment which covers the cost of the equipment only.

Will I be expected to return my existing NHS chair?
Yes, your NHS wheelchair will have to be returned to The Wheelchair Service.

Will you still provide a pressure relief cushion if I need one?
We will still provide a pressure relief cushion if clinically required. This will not affect the PWB you have chosen.