

# Bennachie Horizon CIC

## Getting Started with Option 1

### Training & Services

Option 1 can feel daunting at first, but if your goal is to use it for training services, groups, or activities (rather than hiring staff), the process is much simpler than it looks. Remember, you don't have to completely separate from Option 3, as Option 4 allows a mixture of the other three options.

### Step 1: Ask for Option 1

- At your SDS review or assessment, tell your social worker you want to manage the budget through Option 1.
- Explain that you want to pay directly for services and activities that meet your needs.

### Step 2: Budget account setup

- Your budget will need to go into a separate account that's just for SDS spending.
- Some councils provide a prepaid card account that they manage and load with your budget.
- Others ask you to open your own dedicated bank account, and they pay the budget into it.

### Step 3: Invoices and payments

- Services (like Bennachie Horizon) will send you an invoice for the service they provide.
- You use the Option 1 account to pay that invoice directly, either by bank transfer or through the prepaid card.

### Step 4: Record keeping

- Keep a copy of each invoice and proof of payment (councils sometimes ask to see them).
- Most councils only need records every few months, not weekly.

### Step 5: Spending examples

With Option 1, you can choose to spend your budget on things like:

- Training services (e.g. structured group support, like at Bennachie Horizon)
- Clubs or community groups (e.g. membership fees)
- Specialist activities that support your learning or wellbeing (e.g. sports clubs)
- Short courses or skill-building opportunities (e.g. evening classes)