

## What is finance deputyship?

What you need to know about the Finance Deputy Team

# What is finance deputyship?

## Who are the Finance Deputy Team (FDT)?

The Finance Deputy Team at Buckinghamshire Council manage the financial affairs of vulnerable adults who are unable to do so themselves due to mental incapacity.

We do this by becoming someone's 'corporate appointee' for their Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) benefits, or we will be appointed as their property and financial affairs 'deputy' by the Court of Protection.

Referrals and contact with the Finance Deputy Team are **only** made from existing Buckinghamshire Council social workers. If you feel this service may be required, please contact the person's allocated social worker.

## What is an appointee?

An appointee is a person or organisation that the Department for Work and Pensions asks to manage a person's benefit payments.

As an appointee, the Finance Deputy Team will take full responsibility for making and maintaining claims for the benefits a person is entitled to. They will also manage how these benefits are spent, and will assist with:

- opening and managing a bank account on the person's behalf
- paying bills and invoices
- ensuring all benefits are claimed
- managing the person's personal allowance

Appointeeship will be the best option if the person is just in receipt of state benefits and has no other source of income and no other assets such as a property.

A small weekly fee will be charged for this service.

You can access further information about appointees on gov.uk's website:

 **Go online:** [www.gov.uk/become-appointee-for-someone-claiming-benefits](https://www.gov.uk/become-appointee-for-someone-claiming-benefits)

## What is a deputy?

When the person who lacks capacity to manage their own finances has other sources of income and/or property as well as state benefits, then the Finance Deputy Team will apply to the Court of Protection to become the Deputy for Property & Affairs. This will enable the Finance Deputy Team to be able to manage finances on the person's behalf.

A deputy will:

- be responsible for making financial decisions
- manage all incomes
- contact companies on the person's behalf
- maintain or sell property or other assets
- invest savings in Court Funds (when required to do so)

You can access further information about deputies on gov.uk's website:

 **Go online:** [www.gov.uk/become-deputy](http://www.gov.uk/become-deputy)

## Applying to be a deputy

An application for a deputy can take six months. A deputy is supervised by the Office of the Public Guardian.

The Finance Deputy Team may charge for the work we do by acting as a deputy.

This is agreed by the Court of Protection, who allow us to look after the person's monies for them, and also the Office of the Public Guardian, who are responsible for checking the work we do.

**Use this space to write down things you need to remember to tell us**

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## How to contact us

### Adult Care Services


To get more information about adult social care services you can:

 **Go online:** [buckinghamshire.gov.uk](http://buckinghamshire.gov.uk) and click on 'Care for Adults'


 **Call:** Social worker: \_\_\_\_\_ Team: \_\_\_\_\_

### Are you worried about somebody?


If you or someone you know is at risk of abuse or neglect:


 **Call:** 0800 137915 (24 hours a day)

### If you would like to give us feedback

 **Go online:** Please complete the online form at [buckinghamshire.gov.uk](http://buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

If you prefer you can:

 **Call:** 01296 387844

 **Email:** [complimentsandcomplaints@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:complimentsandcomplaints@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)