



Fact Sheet: Personal Budgets

What does the term Personal Budget mean?

A Personal Budget is an amount of money identified by the local authority to deliver provision set out in an EHC plan where the parent or young person is involved in securing that provision

This fact sheet will help you understand the basics of Personal Budgets.



The legal bit...

The child's parent or the young person has a right to request a Personal Budget, when the local authority has completed an EHC needs assessment and confirmed that it will prepare an EHC plan. They may also request a Personal Budget during a statutory review of an existing EHC plan.

SEND Code of Practice 2015



What is a Personal Budget...

A personal budget sets out the amount of money that is available to spend on support for your child, to meet their assessed needs. This money may come from your local social services team, local education department, or in some cases from your NHS clinical commissioning group (CCG).

Personal Budgets should be focused to secure the provision agreed in the EHC plan and should be designed to secure the outcomes specified in the EHC plan.

Having a personal budget does not mean that your child will get any extra funding. However, it should mean that you have more say in how the money that has been allocated is spent.

It is important to note that any funding spent in an alternative way (such as not to fund a TA in school from the education budget for example, and to use this funding in a different way), takes away this support from the plan. The support you ask for a personal budget to provide must also still be in keeping with helping the child meet the outcomes in their plan.

Money that can't be used is the schools own notional send budget (the first £6000), and any support you want to arrange that will be going into your Childs school must be with the permission of the school.



Personal Health Budget

If you receive funding from the NHS, for continuing care needs, this is known as a personal health budget.

For more information about personal health budgets visit:

www.boltonccg.nhs.uk/patient-zone/personal-health-budgets



Social care direct payments

These are different than a Personal Budget and are the result of a Social Care Assessment. In some cases, the assessment may give you the option of getting direct payments, which you can use to buy support for your child rather than have this arranged for you. This is commonly found in social care, where parents and carers prefer to employ a personal assistant, as opposed to using the councils own short break services.



Types of delivery of a Personal Budget...

There are four ways in which the child's parent and/or the young person can be involved in securing provision:

- **Direct payments** – where individuals receive the cash to contract, purchase and manage services themselves
- **An arrangement** – whereby the local authority, school or college holds the funds and commissions the support specified in the plan (these are sometimes called notional budgets)
- **Third party arrangements** – where funds (direct payments) are paid to and managed by an individual or organisation on behalf of the child's parent or the young person
- **A combination of the above**

Some forms of personal budgets and direct payments mean you also may become an employer if your choice of spending involves utilising other people- so you'll take the responsibility of PAYE, pensions and holidays. It is good advice to get help and support with this if it is all new to you.



When can I request a Personal Budget?

You will be asked about Personal Budgets throughout the EHC Needs Assessment pathway and annually at Annual Review.

Sometimes the LA can refuse to prepare a personal budget for a family. There is no formal route to challenge this, but you can ask the LA to reconsider.