

Personal Budgets Linked to Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans

What is a Personal Budget?

A personal budget is an amount of money identified by the Local Authority and/or Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to deliver provision set out in an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan where the parent or young person is involved in securing that provision

The Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) Code of Practice advises that young people and parents of children who have EHC plans have the right to request a personal budget, which may contain elements of education, social care and health funding. However, a personal budget is *optional*, and must be used to meet the outcomes specified in the EHC plan.

A personal budget will only be agreed if it does not cost more than any services provided directly. If a child or young person's needs can be met by universal resources, without the requirement for additional funding, then they would *not* be eligible for a personal budget.

Education

Most schools and colleges are funded to meet the additional needs of pupils with SEN and disabilities up to a total cost of around £10,000 per year from their Element 1 (place cost) and Element 2 (SEN support) budgets. Additional (Element 3) funding to meet support costs above the first £10,000 is available from the Local Authority's High Level Needs budget.

Some examples of education funding that may be released into a personal budget:

- High Level Needs (HLN) funding for mainstream schools
- Special Educational Needs (SEN) Home to School Travel Assistance

Some examples of education funding that cannot be released into a personal budget:

- The cost of a specialist or independent school placement
- The cost of the Local Authority's school support services
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If you think you may be eligible for an education personal budget and wish to request one, please contact your SEN Officer on 0115 87 64300. Requests will be considered on an individual basis.

Health

Most health provision outlined in EHC plans is delivered through normally commissioned health services and is not releasable into a personal budget. However, a very small number of children and young people are eligible for Continuing Care funding, and this can be accessed via a personal budget.

Families wishing to find out more about health budgets would initially discuss this with a member of their local health team e.g. their GP who would help decide if a personal health budget were appropriate and if the child or young person is eligible.

Social Care

Local Authorities have a duty to consider the social care needs of a disabled child or young person. Where these needs cannot be met through universal services the LA should consider the provision of the following services at a level which meets the needs and outcomes identified in their EHC plan. The following services can be accessed through a personal budget:

- Short breaks services provide disabled children or young people an opportunity to spend time away from their parents or primary carers, relaxing, having fun with their friends, experiencing the same range of activities and environments as non-disabled children and young people. Short breaks also provide parents and carers with a "break" from their caring responsibilities, giving them a chance to rest, spend time with partners and other children.
- Services to meet the needs of a disabled child to receive practical assistance in the home, access community activities, facilitate going on holidays, assist in arranging adaptations or provision of equipment to promote safety, comfort and convenience.

If a family have a social care professional or team already allocated to them, they should discuss their social care needs with them. If the family are not known to social care services, and would like to discuss their child's needs further they should contact either the Whole Life Disability Service on 0115 883 8266, or contact a Personalisation Officer within the Short Breaks Team on 0115 876 2745.

How a Personal Budget Can be Delivered:

- By direct payments – the person receives cash to contract, purchase and manage services themselves.
- Through an arrangement (notional budget) – the local authority, school or college holds the funds and commissions the support specified in the plan
- Through third party arrangements – funds (direct payments) are paid to (and managed by) an individual or organisation on behalf of the parent or young person.
- Through a combination of the above.

Further Information

Further information can be found online at: www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/localoffer