

## Factsheet Personal Budgets

A child or young person with an Education Health and Care Plan [EHCP] may be eligible to access a Personal Budget [PB]. Personal Budgets are an option for families –that could allow a family to have more control over how funding is used. Personal budgets do not represent additional funding. They can provide parents, carers and the young person with the decision – making power to select their own services. The funding may be used to purchase support, services and equipment. SEN Code of Practice, 2015, section 9:95 clearly states, ***“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”.***

Not everyone will want a personal budget and there is no statutory requirement for parents/carers or a young person to have one.

- Personal Budgets can only be spent on anything that helps to meet the agreed outcomes of the EHCP.
- The decision to allocate a PB would usually be made when the EHCP is drawn up or at the annual review stage. The SEN Code of Practice, 2015, section 9.98 clearly states, ***“The child’s parent or the young person has a right to request a PB. When the local authority has completed an EHC needs assessment and confirmed that it will prepare an EHC plan. They may also request a PB during a statutory review of an existing plan”.***
- The choice of taking a PB as a direct payment may not be available. This could be in relation to safeguarding concerns and/or issues around consent.
- Personal budgets are designed to give families more choice and control over the services and support they need.
- The EHCP should be clear about the amount of money available to be spent by the child/young person. The SEN Code of Practice, 2015, section 9.99 clearly states: ***“Personal budgets should reflect the holistic nature of an EHC plan and can include funding special educational, health and social care provision. They should be focused to secure the provision agreed in the EHC plan and should be designated to secure the outcomes specified in the EHC plan”.***

A Personal Budget –Can include funding from:

- Education
- Health
- Social Care



The SEN Code of Practice, 2015, section 9.110 clearly states, ***“The scope of that budget will vary depending on the needs of the individual, the eligibility criteria for the different components and the mechanism for delivery”.***

The SEN Code of Practice, 2015, section 9.110 clearly states: ***There are four ways in which the child’s parents and or the young people can be involved in securing provision:***

- ***Direct Payment*** – where individuals receive the cash to contract, purchase and manage services themselves [If a direct payment is requested and used to employ staff directly the recipient will be responsible as an employer to abide by the current employment laws].
- ***An Arrangement [notional budgets]*** – whereby the local authority, school or college holds the funds and commissions the support specified in the plan.
- ***Third party arrangement*** – 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”.***

