

Personal budgets



Providing SEND Information, Advice & Support in
Central Bedfordshire

Personal budgets for SEND

This information is about personal budgets for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

You can access the SEND Code of Practice online at www.gov.uk and search SEND Code of Practice.

What is a Personal Budget?

A Personal Budget for SEND is money set aside to fund support as part of an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP) for a child or young person with special educational needs. It can include funds from Education, Health and Social Care.

Parents/carers or the young person must always be involved in planning the Personal Budget.

Sometimes the local authority, school or college will look after the Personal Budget for the parents/carers or young person. This is called an Arrangement or a Notional Budget.

Sometimes the parents/carers or the young person may manage all or part of the Personal Budget themselves. The money to do this will come from a Direct Payment.

Sometimes someone else will manage the Personal Budget for the parents/carers or young person. This is called a Third-Party Arrangement.

Sometimes the parents/carers or young person will have a mixture of some or all of these arrangements.

Who can have a Personal Budget?

Parents/carers of a child or young person with an EHCP can ask for a Personal Budget. You can also ask for a Personal Budget if your child or young person has been assessed as needing an EHCP, but this has not yet been finalised. However, you do not have to have a Personal Budget.

The SEND Code of Practice says:

(9.96) Local authorities must provide information on Personal Budgets as part of the Local Offer. This should include a policy on Personal Budgets that sets out a description of the services across education, health and social care that currently lend themselves to the use of Personal Budgets, how that funding will be made available, and clear and simple statements of eligibility criteria and the decision-making processes.

You can see the personal budget policy for Central Bedfordshire:

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk and search for Personal Budgets.

A young person with an EHCP can ask for their own Personal Budget after the end of the school year in which they become 16.

Sometimes the local authority may not agree to a Personal Budget. If that happens the local authority should tell you why.

What can a Personal Budget be used for?

A Personal Budget can be used only on the support set out in an EHCP. This can include funding for the special education, health and social care support that will help to achieve the outcomes set out in the EHCP.

You can find out what can be included in a Personal Budget in the local authority Personal Budget Guide. You can also ask **CBC SEND Parent & Young Person Partnership** for more information about this.

A Personal Budget does not cover payment for a place at the school or college, or the general provision for children or young people, including those who need **SEND Support**. A Personal Budget does include any top up funding (known as Element 3 Funding) that is for provision specified in an EHCP. It can also include support that is managed by the school or college – but only if the Headteacher or Principal agree.

You can find out more about what can be included in a Personal Budget in Sections 9.110 to 9.118 of the **SEND Code of Practice**.

What is the difference between a Personal Budget and a Direct Payment?

A Personal Budget shows you what money there is to make some of the provision specified in an EHCP, and who provides it. The parents/carers of the child or young person does not actually manage the funds directly.

With a **Direct Payment** the parents/carers of the child or young person is given the money for some services and manages the funds themselves. The parents/carers of the child or young person is responsible for buying the service and paying for it.

A Personal Budget can include a Direct Payment if it is agreed that this is the best way to manage part of the Personal Budget.

Direct Payments can be used for special educational provision only if the school or college agree.

It is also possible to have a Third-Party Arrangement to manage a Direct Payment.

How much will I get if I have Direct Payments?

How much you get will depend on what has been set out in the EHCP. So, it will vary from one person to another.

If the local authority has agreed to make a Direct Payment it must be enough to pay for the service or services specified in the EHCP.

Are there other kinds of Personal Budget?

Yes – some people have had Personal Budgets for health provision (a Personal Health Budget) and for social care provision (e.g. Fair Access to Short Breaks). They may have managed some or all of the provision using a Direct Payment. This is the first time that Personal Budgets have become available for SEND provision.

Where can I get further information, advice or support?

You can find further information:

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/parentpartnership

CBC SEND Parent & Young Person Partnership Service can also give you:

- More information about Personal Budgets, including Direct Payments.
- Advice on whether you may be able to get a Personal Budget and how you can apply for it.
- Information and advice on local services, organisations and resources that may be able to help.
- Information, advice and support on what you can do if you are unhappy with the local authorities' decision on your Personal Budget.

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Further Information

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