



HOUNSLOW SENDIASS

Information Advice and Support Service

Personal Budgets Factsheet

Summary

This factsheet provides information about personal budgets for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND).

What is a Personal Budget?

A Personal Budget is part of an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). It is money set aside to fund support for a child or young person with Special Educational Needs.

It is mandatory for parents or the young person to be involved in planning the Personal Budget.

There are different ways to manage the Personal Budget. These include:

- An Arrangement or Notional Budget: when the local authority, school or college looks after the Personal Budget on behalf of the parents or young person
- Direct Payment: when the parents or the young person manages all or part of the Personal Budget themselves. The money to do this comes from a direct payment.
- Third Party Arrangement: when someone else manages the Personal Budget on behalf of the parents or young person

Sometimes there will be a mixture of some or all these arrangements.

Who is eligible for a Personal Budget?

If your child has an EHCP or has been assessed as needing an EHCP that has not yet been finalised, you can ask for a Personal Budget. A young person can request their own Personal Budget after the end of the school year where they turn 16.

It is not always necessary to require a Personal Budget. Local authorities may deny your request, but they must tell you why they came to this decision.

What can a Personal Budget be used for?

Personal Budgets can be used only on the support set out in your child's EHCP. It will include any top up funding specified in the EHCP, as well as support managed by the school/college agreed by your headteacher.

It does not include payment for a place at the school/college.

Direct Payments

Parents or young people do not personally manage the funds allocated within the Personal Budget. However, with a Direct Payment, the parent or young person is given some money to manage themselves. This is to be used for the services specified in the EHCP. The parent or young person is directly responsible for buying this service and paying for it.

A Personal Budget may include a Direct Payment if it is agreed that this is the best way for the Personal Budget to be managed. It is also possible to have a Third-Party Arrangement to manage a Direct Payment.

The amount of money within a Direct Payment will vary from one person to another. It will be enough to pay for the service or services specified in the EHCP.

Other types of Personal Budget

Two other types of Personal Budget are available:

1. Personal Health Budget: for a person's health provision
2. Fair Access to Short Breaks: for social care provision

Further Information

For further information on Personal Budgets, check out the links on the Hounslow SEND Local Offer website and IPSEA website:

[SEND Local Offer: Personal budgets and direct payments | London Borough of Hounslow](#)

[Personal budgets and direct payments | \(IPSEA\) Independent Provider of Special Education Advice](#)

Alternatively, please contact Hounslow SENDIASS for impartial, free and confidential support. You can contact them:

- By email: sendiass@hounslow.gov.uk
- By telephone: 0208 5832607