

SEND | Special Educational Needs & Disability

Explaining personal budgets

What is a personal budget?

Personal Budgets are available to children and young people who have an Education, Health and Care plan.

A personal budget is the amount of money available for services to make sure that families can obtain choice, control and flexibility over the way funding is used to meet the outcomes for their child.

When are personal budgets provided?

Personal budgets may be allocated when a child or young person has complex support needs which cannot be met without additional specialist services.

Using person centred planning we will work with you to consider how the funding can help you to find solutions that work for your child and family.

How are Personal Budgets managed?

Personal Budgets can be managed as follows:

1. As a direct payment. This is an amount of money paid directly to parents/carers and young people (over 18) to source their own support services.
2. An organised arrangement where the Local Authority or Health Services arranges services for outcomes specified in the EHC plan.
3. A combination of the above.

Example:

Instead of a home care worker Joseph and his parents opted to receive a direct payment to employ a male family friend to focus on improving his daily living skills both in the home and community which included travel training and Joseph doing some of his personal care for himself.

How it will work for each child and their family

If you have requested a personal budget as part of an Education Health and Care Plan you will be able to access Personal Budgets if your child or young person has an eligible social care need. In the coming months we hope to increase the range of support services across Education, Health and Care that can be offered as part of a Personal Budget.

How can I find out more information?

For information and advice relating to personal budgets within Social Care please contact the Customer Call Centre on the number below and asked to speak to a member of the Disabled Children's Team East or West:

Customer call centre 0300 123 4043

Or alternatively visit [Hertsdirect.gov.uk/SEND](https://www.hertsdirect.gov.uk/SEND) offer which will have up to date information and advice as to the progress Hertfordshire is making towards personal budgets.