

A One Minute Guide for – Personal Budgets.

What is a Personal Budget?

A personal budget is where young people, or parents/carers or carers of a child, with an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP) are able to take some choice and control over how resources are spent on specialist support. Personal budgets can include resources from education, health and/or social care services.

Where does the money come from and what can it be used for?

It is important to note that by having a Personal Budget, it does not increase the resources which are available, but it does mean that parents/carers or young people can influence how the existing resources are used or spent.

Education: is taken from a pot of SEN funding called Element 3 “top up” funding. For more information please visit our SEN Funding page, [here](#). Education funding must be used on special educational provision which enables the child/young person to achieve the outcomes stated in the EHCP.

Health: is often known as “continuing care” which is overseen by the local NHS Clinical Commissioning Group. Continuing Care funding is used to ensure appropriate, specialist health care and medical intervention is available to the child/young person.

Social care: is overseen and monitored by the child/young person’s social worker, and can be used to support in the family home (e.g. supportive equipment, help with domestic activities) or support to access social activities in the community (e.g. a Personal Assistant, support to join in a local club, [short breaks](#)).

Mechanisms for delivering a Personal Budget:

- **Arrangement:** the council, school or college holds the money and arranges the support needed on behalf of the parent/carer or young person.
- **Third party arrangement:** the money is held by a third party who handles it on behalf of the parent/carer or young person (e.g. a relative or specialist broker).
- **Direct Payment:** the money is given directly to parents/carers or the young person to arrange support.
- **A combination** of any/all of the above.

Eligibility

Any young person with, or the parent of a child with, an EHC plan has the right to ask the Local Authority to prepare information about a Personal Budget and to request a Personal Budget.

Requesting a Personal Budget

There are two points at which a parent or young person can request that the Local Authority prepares information about a Personal Budget:

- EHC Assessment
- Annual Review

Where can I get further information, advice and support?

- Information Advice and Support Service ([SENDIASS](#)) – 01274 513300
- Other Organisations – [PFBA](#), [AWARE](#)
- For full details please follow the link to Bradford’s Local Offer: <https://localoffer.bradford.gov.uk/service/763-personal-budgets-overview>