

# Explaining Personal Budgets for Special Needs in Telford & Wrekin

## Information for Parents and Carers



This booklet explains Personal Budget for Special Educational Needs (Personal SEN Budgets), how they might be used and how they are only one part of a much wider system of learning opportunities, support and activities available to children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans.

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# Our Commitment Delivering Personal SEN Budgets in Telford & Wrekin

## What are we aiming to do?

- Be more transparent, accountable and open in all of our processes and decision making.
- Give parents and young people information to help them understand personal SEN Budgets
- Provide Personal SEN Budgets to help children and young people achieve the educational outcomes identified in their EHC Plans
- Work in partnership with practitioners, young people and families all contributing their knowledge, skills and expertise (this is sometimes called co-production)

## Why?

We want to see children/young people with Special Educational needs and disabilities (SEND) achieve their potential and go on to live fulfilled lives as independently as they are able to .



## **In Regard to Personal SEN Budgets, We Are Working Towards:**

- All young people and parents will know the resource allocated to support them/their child and how this funding is being used. This information will be contained within the child/young persons EHC Plan.
- Clear information and a pathway for young people and parents regarding Personal SEN Budgets.
- Support and advice for families and young people who manage their personal SEN Budget as a direct payment (explained in more detail on pages 9 and 10).

## **Your Right to Request a Personal Budget:**

The code of practice states that parents/carers and young people have a right to request a Personal Budget at any time whilst the EHC Plan is being prepared or reviewed. We will follow the code of practice and work with you and all practitioners involved in agreeing the best method to enable this to happen. It does not mean you have to manage the budget yourself, although this is an option if everyone else agrees. It is important to note that you may not be able to have control of the total amount of your child's Personal SEN Budget and we will have discussions with all parties to identify how much funding is available as a cash amount.



# Explaining Personal SEN Budgets in Telford & Wrekin

A Personal SEN Budget is the funding allocated to meet the **additional and individual educational needs (Element 3 funding)** of the child/young person within their Education, Health and Care Plan. It may also include **Additional Learning Support (Element 2)** funding contained within their EHC Plan. At present, any provision that is block funded (e.g. Speech and Language Therapy) or Resources Already Committed will not be included in the Personal SEN Budget but will still be included in the child/young person's educational plan as required.

In Telford & Wrekin, we will work towards all children and young people with an EHC Plan having a Personal SEN Budget. This means that parents and young people will know how much resource is available, they will be involved in deciding the provision to achieve outcomes agreed in the EHC Plan and they will be involved in agreeing how a Personal SEN Budget is managed. A Personal SEN Budget does not mean a direct payment.

The table below shows the elements of education funding to support children/young people.

<b>Element 1 Funding</b>  (Not available as a Personal SEN Budget)  Also called Wave 1 and universal support	<b>Element 2 Funding</b>  (Parts of this may be available as a personal SEN Budget via direct payment if setting agrees)  Also called SEN support (targeted/additional support).	<b>Element 3 funding</b>  (Parts of this may be available as a personal SEN Budget via direct payment if local Authority agrees)  Also called High needs Block and Individual & Additional Learning Support
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# Levels of Support and Funding Streams Explained

## **Level 1 funding (Universal support):**

Support for all children/young people to achieve good quality learning outcomes. Each setting receives an amount to fund a place. This funding is not a Personal SEN Budget.

## **Level 2 Funding (Targeted support):**

Services and support targeted on a group of children/young people due to a particular common learning support need. This may include funding of support staff, focused literacy support, behaviour management programmes etc. Most children will be supported as 'SEN support'.

Each setting must provide additional support up to the value of £6000 to meet the additional support needs of children and young people who need it. This funding is included within the SEN Personal Budget. **It is only available as a direct payment if the setting agrees.**

## **Level 3 Funding (Individual support):**

A small number of children and young people need **additional and individual support** to enable them to access learning activities, to be included within their Education setting and to achieve well. These children and young people will have an Education, Health and Care Plan, supported by a Personal SEN Budget.



# How Personal SEN Budgets Work in Telford & Wrekin

When the local authority agrees that an EHC Plan is needed, we will allocate 'level 3' resource required to meet the child or young person's educational needs. Parents and young people will be told the resource available through a banded level (the banded level 'cash' amount will be published on the Local Offer) and can work with everyone involved to agree what needs to be put in place to meet the child or young person's educational needs. This is an opportunity to be creative and flexible as a team and to think about the best way to get results.



## **Direct Payment**

*Direct payment means the family manage the budget and spend the funds in line with the agreed EHC Plan. Any provision bought must be something that is already written in the child/young person's EHC Plan .*

Parents/young people can ask for a direct payment to manage the Personal SEN Budget but this **must** be agreed by the setting and/or local authority.

In order to implement a direct payment, Telford & Wrekin Council must be satisfied that:

- The direct payment will be used to pay for things that have been agreed in the ECH Plan.
- The direct payment is an appropriate way to pay for things that have been agreed in the EHC Plan.
- The person receiving the direct payment will act in the best interests of the child/young person.
- The direct payment is an efficient use of resources

If Telford and Wrekin Council are not satisfied of the above, then the Personal SEN Budget will be managed either by the local authority/setting or, if this is not feasible, then a third party organisation may be commissioned to do so.

## **Personal Care Budgets, Personal Health Budgets & Personal SEN Transport Budgets**

A child or young person may also have a personal budget from social care for health or transport. These can form part of an EHC Plan or as standalone plans (except SEN Transport) if no educational needs are identified. All of the personal budgets below can be taken via direct payment if Telford Council.



## **Personal Care Budget (Disabled Children & Young People) 0-17 Years**

This funding is available to those children and young people who meet the eligibility criteria for a service from the Disabled Children Team and who have identified needs on their plan that cannot be met without additional resources being available.

## **Personal Care Budget (Adult Social Care) 18 Years+**

This funding is available to adults who have been assessed by Adult Social Care and have needs identified that cannot be met without additional resources being available.

## **Personal Health Budget (children)**

Since April 2014, children eligible for continuing care funding have the 'right to ask' will be extended to include children with long term conditions who may benefit from a PHB. There are some aspects of NHS care, for example, or care your child usually gets from your family GP or dentist. Details are set out in guidance provided by NHS England (see below)

Information on PHBs can be found here:

<http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/patient-choice/personal-health-budget/>

Further information on children's continuing care, including eligibility, can be found here:

<http://www.nhs.uk/CarersDirect/guide/practicalsupport/Pages/continuing-care-children.aspx>

## **Personal SEN Transport Budget**

In certain circumstances, a personal transport budget may be available for children/young people who are entitled to SEN Transport and whose families wish to make their own arrangements to transport their child to/from school. This might be offered where the Authority is unable to offer alternative suitable transport provision and/or where it is more cost effective. Further information on PTB can be found here:

[http://www.telfordsend.org.uk/localofferservices/info/1/home/64/personal\\_transport\\_budget](http://www.telfordsend.org.uk/localofferservices/info/1/home/64/personal_transport_budget)



## **What can be bought using a Personal SEN Budget?**

A Personal SEN budget **must** be only be used to deliver identified educational provision in an EHC plan.

Example's Include:

- Some activity or staffing to be delivered in the education setting or elsewhere
- Equipment
- Something bought specifically for an individual child/young person e.g. play therapy (individually commissioned services)
- Advice and assistance from an organisation to help with direct payments (if there is a reasonable charge by the organisation)

## **What cannot be bought using a Personal SEN Budget?**

- Anything that is **not** identified on the child/young person's EHC plan
- Health or social care provision that will **not** achieve identified educational outcomes for the child/young person
- Any provision that the setting would give any child/young person



# Ways to Manage Personal SEN Budgets

In a nutshell resource is calculated when the provision is agreed in the Plan and this becomes a Personal SEN Budget.

The Personal SEN Budget can be managed in the following ways:

- The setting or local authority will hold the budget and pay for all provision. (*This decision must be agreed by the setting and/or local authority*).
- The family will hold the budget and manage it as a **direct payment**. The local authority pays an agreed amount to the nominated person to pay for the provision agreed in the EHC Plan. (*If family want to have a direct payment, the local authority must agree and the setting must agree if the provision is to be delivered on its site.*)
- A third party organisation will manage the budget. The local authority pay an agreed amount to the organisation to buy the provision agreed in the EHC Plan and pay “reasonable costs” towards the cost of managing the budget. (*this decision is made by the local authority and family if the family are unable/unwilling to have a direct payment and the setting/local authority cannot manage the budget*).
- A combination of any of the above options.



# Children/Young People in Specific Circumstances

## Educated at home

The code of practice states that if the local authority and parents agree that home education is the right provision for a child/young person within an EHC Plan, then the local authority **must** arrange the special educational provision set out in the plan, working with the parents (under Section 42 (2) of the Children and Families Act 2014). In this situation, a Personal SEN Budget via a direct payment **may** be available, if Telford & Wrekin Council agrees.

In cases where the EHC plan gives the name of a school or type of school where the child will be educated but the parents decide to educate at home, the local authority is not under a duty to make the special educational provision set out in the plan. In this situation, a Personal SEN Budget via a direct payment is unlikely to be available.

## Special school provision

A special school or college makes some specialist provision available that is not normally available at mainstream schools/colleges, and this will reduce the scope of a direct payment within a Personal SEN Budget.

## Children educated Out of Area

A school/specialist college placement out of area **cannot** be funded via a direct payment. Telford & Wrekin Council **must** provide reasonable transport or travel assistance to the child/young person who is eligible under the Home to School Transport Policy. This could be taken as a Personal SEN Transport Budget which the family may choose to have via a direct payment if the local authority agrees.



# Resolving Disagreements

Parents/young people have a right to request a formal review of their Personal SEN Budget once it is in place if they are unhappy about any part of it. This can be done via a request to the SEND officer of the EHCP or his/her line manager in the first instance. If the issue cannot be resolved at this level, it will be presented to SEND complex case panel, which meets weekly.

Parents/young people can request support from SEND Independent Support Telford 01952 385385 or visit their website <http://www.telfordsend.org.uk/localofferservices/contact>

If parents/ young people are unhappy about any decision made within the process of allocating the PB, even before it is in place, they should raise this with the SEND officer of the EHCP or his/her line manager.





If you have any feedback on this document,  
please email [SENDandInclusion@telford.gov.uk](mailto:SENDandInclusion@telford.gov.uk)

