

Is a personal budget right for our family?

You may like to think about the following questions:

- Are my child's outcomes already met through existing services?
- Is there a suitable service that I can spend my child's personal budget on?
- Do I have the time and skills to manage a direct payment / personal budget?
- Would I be able to use the money I already get in a new and more flexible way?

How can I get a personal budget?

Your EHC plan coordinator should discuss personal budgets with you as part of the EHC plan development process or annual review. You will need to notify your EHC plan coordinator if you wish to request a personal budget.

Where else can I find information?

- Norfolk's Local Offer at www.norfolk.gov.uk/send
- Norfolk SEND partnership at www.norfolksendpartnershiass.org.uk
- Scope Independent Support at www.scope.org.uk

This leaflet is part of a series of leaflets that cover:

- Joint commissioning
- The Local Offer
- Special educational needs (SEN) support
- Education, health and care (EHC) plans
- **Personal budgets**
- Preparing for adulthood.

Personal budgets



Young people and parents of children who have education, health and care (EHC) plans have the right to request a personal budget, which may contain elements of education, social care and health funding.

What is a personal budget?

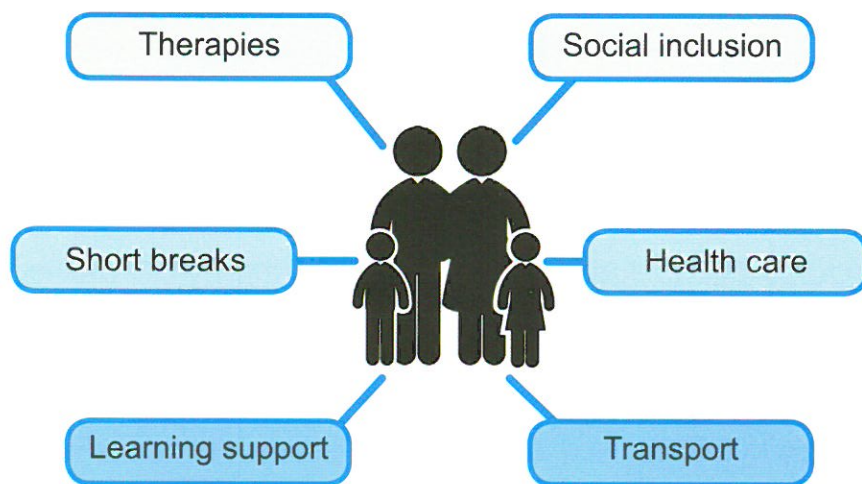
A personal budget can provide families with more choice and control in selecting the services and support needed to meet the individual's specific needs the best way.

A personal budget is an amount of money identified to deliver one or more specific provisions described in Sections F, G and H of an EHC plan.

Currently in Norfolk, the majority of education and health funding is given to fund services.

In the future, as education, health and care provision develops, there will be greater opportunity and choice around the use of personal budgets.

A creative personal budget could fund...



Personal budgets cannot be used to pay for assessments.

What are the choices for managing a personal budget?

- An arrangement (sometimes called a notional budget) – you can ask the local council to look after it. The council arranges and pays for support and services on your behalf
- Direct payments – your budget is paid directly to you, your young person or a third party to buy, arrange and manage your own support and services
- Family contribution – you agree to use some of your own money to pay for specific services
- A combination of the above.

What if I choose to manage a personal budget through a direct payment?

- You will need a bank account specifically for the personal budget
- You will need to agree the provision for your child with the provider
- You will need to set aside time to manage and submit the financial monitoring information
- You will need to be organised and good at record keeping
- The personal budget will be reviewed alongside the outcomes annually at the EHC plan review.