

1. INTRODUCTION

The SEND Code of Practice defines a personal budget as an amount of money identified by the local authority to deliver parts of the provision set out in an Education Health and Care plan (EHC). Families will be able to request a personal budget as part of the planning process, i.e. when a local authority is drawing up an EHC plan or at the annual review.

Following an assessment of need the “team around me” may decide that additional resources, from one or from multiple sources, are needed in order to meet the outcomes that have been identified in the joint assessment. The local authority or health service traditionally uses this money to purchase services on behalf of the child/young person and their family. However, a personal budget will offer the family more choice and control about the services they receive. The budget will be made clear to parent carers and young people so they can be involved in all decision making in order to choose the right provision to best meet the outcomes identified in their child’s EHC plan.

One of the options might be to access some or the entire personal budget through a direct payment and to purchase services themselves on behalf of their child.

2. SERVICES

The scope and availability of personal budgets will need to be developed and revised over time through regular review and consultation with parents, children and young people and the implementation of joint commissioning strategies.

The SEND Code of Practice is clear that funding for personal budgets will relate to more specialist and individualised provision. In education, this means provision funded wholly or partly from the local authority’s high needs funding and does not include funding for school place or services the school or college is expected to provide as part of the local offer as described in the school SEN information report.

The personal budgets that we will be able to offer families, following an assessment of needs, will be bespoke depending on the child/young person’s assessed needs but could include:

- Special Educational Needs Funding that is provided for individual support
- Continuing Health Care Funding
- Short Breaks Funding
- Home to school transport in the form of a ‘Personal Travel Budget’

In addition to the funding identified through the assessment process, some parent carers may want to use a reasonable amount of their personal available resources, e.g. time or funds, to help meet the outcomes identified in their child’s EHC plan, for example extended family support

A family can decide how they want their personal budget to be managed:

- As a direct payment. The funding coming direct to the family who will manage it to deliver support as set out in the EHC plan.

- As an 'organised budget' where the local authority or other agency manages the budget for the family.
- By a provider (for example a school or the Direct Payment Support service).
- Or as a mix of the three options above.

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Children/young people who have an EHC Assessment or have an EHC Plan review will be offered the option of a Personal Budget if they are eligible.

A personal budget can include funding from education, health and social care. In these cases it will be possible to bring the funding together to use as a single budget focused on holistic and child/family centred support to meet identified needs and outcomes.

The Assessment Co-ordinator or Lead Professional for the family will introduce personal budgets when appropriate and support will be provided to understand the options and to request the personal budget.

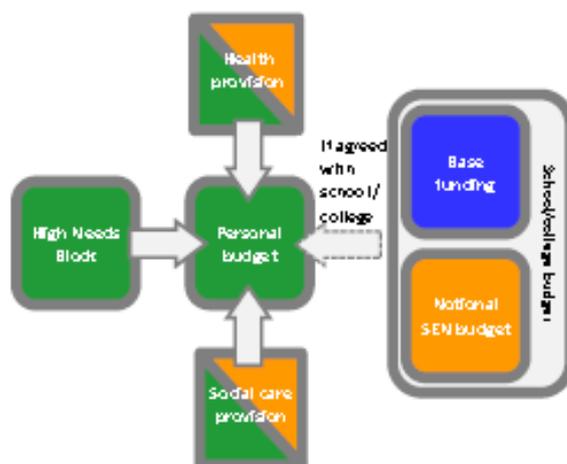
4. DECISION MAKING PROCESSES

The process that will be implemented to agree a personal budget will:-

- be based on clear, agreed outcomes
- be transparent and challengeable
- allow families and young people to manage agreed elements of the additional and individual support they need
- be an integral part of the planning process in order to empower creative solutions
- reflect the holistic nature of an EHCP, covering education, health and care as appropriate, where additional and individual support is needed
- come with the support needed for parents and young people to take up and manage it
- support and inform market development
- allow for local flexibility.

5. PERSONAL BUDGET OFFER

In all cases the availability of a personal budget will be based on the support a child or young person needs in order for them to achieve a set of jointly agreed outcomes and to have their identified support needs met. In some cases an EHC plan may not translate into a child or young person having a personal budget. In other cases a child or young person may have a personal budget made up from more than one source, i.e. social care, SEN and/or health.



Personal budgets should be seen as an integral part of the coordinated assessment and EHC planning process. Pathfinder learning has demonstrated that a personal budget is one of a number of ways to achieve increased personalisation of services for children and young people.

Education

Education funding will be available where support provided by the school/college (including any special educational provision as set out in the local offer) cannot meet the student's identified support needs. The funding for this element of the personal budget will come from the local authority's 'high needs block' funding.

Health

Children who are eligible for Continuing Care Funding will be able to have the health provision of their support provided as part of an Education and Healthcare Plan (EHC). The assessment will make it clear to parents and carers how much money will be available to meet the healthcare needs of their child. They can then discuss and agree the best way it can be spent, to meet the outcomes in the child's care plan. This funding will not be able to pay for care normally received from a family doctor or emergency care.

For more information, please read 'Understanding Personal Health Budgets'

Social Care

This part of the budget will be made available if it is clear that a young person or child is assessed as needing additional and individual support at home and when out and about in the local and wider community. Individual care packages are agreed and allocated using the multi-agency panel process.

For more information please read the "Short Breaks Eligibility Framework"

6. INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

Information and support for parents to manage a personal budget will be available through a number of sources provided by the Local Authority.

Plymouth Online Directory - Provides detailed information about organisations that can provide support for families of disabled children.

Family Information Service – Provides information advice and guidance for families

Plymouth Parent Partnership – provide support for families with a child who has SEN or a disability.

Your child your voice – is a community interest company (CIC) run by parents for parents

Direct Payments Support Service – Enham are commissioned by Plymouth City Council to deliver the support service. They provide a personal budget and direct payment support service for anyone living in Plymouth who receives a personal budget through a direct payment.

Appendix I Eligibility criteria for a Social Care Budget

The Short Break Eligibility Framework

The Short Break Eligibility Framework is designed to clarify:

- How the needs of disabled children and their families are identified using different types of assessment to access a range of short breaks opportunities
- How decisions are taken as to what type of support may be available for the child and the family using the information from the assessment
- The range of Short Break Services available for families to access following an assessment

In Plymouth there are 3 different levels of assessment for a disabled child and their family :-

- Self-assessment
- Professional Assessment
- Child in Need assessment

Self-Assessment

Assessment is not something only undertaken by professionals. Parents frequently undertake an assessment of their circumstances and look for solutions to meet their needs. For example, the parents may feel that their child needs to develop their social skills and they arrange for him to attend a holiday club with his cousin as a companion to support him to engage in the activity. This is an assessment of their circumstances by the parent, but it does not require recording on a file.

Professional Assessment

If the family of the disabled child are unable to find a solution to meet their needs within their family network they may approach professionals to help them identify possible services to help them meet any appropriately identified needs.

Child in Need Assessment

Assessments for disabled children will continue to be carried out under the Children's Act 1989. Local councils have a duty to assess a 'child in need' under the age of 18. The assessment considers all the help that your disabled child needs, the needs of any other children in the family and the help that you may need to care for the disabled child. This assessment can be combined with the parent carer's assessment, and could be carried out by the same person at the same time

The assessment will involve gathering information (which will include talking to you, your child and other key people in your child's life); assessing this information and deciding whether any of your child's or family's needs are eligible for support services from the local council and ensuring that this support is then put in place.

Parent Carer Assessment

Under the Children Act 1989, it has always been expected that an assessment of a child 'in need' under section 17, including all disabled children, will be 'holistic' – so that it will take account of the needs of other family members. One of the key domains for a child 'in need' assessment is 'parenting capacity'.

However, parent carers also have rights to stand-alone assessments and new rights to services under the Children and Families Act 2014 which requires local authorities to assess parent carers on the appearance of need or where an assessment is requested by the parent. This is called a "parent carers needs assessment".

THE SHORT BREAK ELIGIBILITY FRAMEWORK

How are Short Break needs identified	Who is involved in the assessment	Type of Service	Service delivery models	Communication pathways
Universal (Tier 1) Ordinary Lives				
Assessment type: Self-assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents/Child and extended family 	Universal Services	After school clubs, Youth Clubs, Scouts, Swimming, Guides, Drama Clubs, Sports/Leisure etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Offer Plymouth Online Directory School
Eligibility Criteria (Tier 2) Services for people who need some additional support to access universal services				
Assessment type: Family Plan Early Help/Gateway Assessment Family determine their own solutions and deliver them with some additional support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents/Child and extended family Early Help Gateway Lead Professional Keyworker, Team Around the Child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short Term intervention Additional support to access mainstream activities Targeted activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universal services as above Targeted services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Offer Plymouth Online Directory School Assessment Review meetings
Eligibility Criteria (Tier 3) Services for people who need additional to targeted/preventative services or specialist services				
Assessment type: Carers Assessment Initial Assessment Assessment is based on an assessment of need which evidences why universal services are not able to meet the need leading to an individual outcomes based plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents/child and extended family Early Help Gateway Children's Disability Team Occupational Therapy Service 	Care package that has been assessed and matches needs to resources with an individual outcomes based plan that is reviewed regularly to ensure it continues to meet needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domiciliary Care/Enablers Family based Short Breaks Residential Care Direct Payment 	Care plan review meetings
Eligibility Criteria (Tier 4) Services for people who would benefit from a joint approach from Health and Social Care				
Assessment type: Joint Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Devon CCG Children's Disability team Community Nurses 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domiciliary Care/Enablers Family based Short Breaks Residential Care 	Care plan review meetings

