

Personal Budget

What is a personal budget?

A personal budget is an amount of money identified by the local authority to deliver provision set out in an EHC plan. The parent or young person is involved in securing this provision.

Who can have a personal budget?

Personal budgets are optional for the child's parent or the young person. **Local authorities have a duty to prepare a budget when requested.**

The child's parent or the young person has a right to request a personal budget, when the local authority has completed an EHC needs assessment and confirmed that it will prepare an EHC plan. They may also request a Personal Budget during a statutory review of an existing EHC plan.

What kind of support is available?

Local authorities must provide information about organizations that may be able to provide advice and assistance to help parents and young people make informed decisions about personal budgets.

What are the different ways a personal budget can be delivered?

There are **four ways** in which the child's parent and/or the young person can be involved in securing provision.

Direct payments – where individuals receive the cash to contract, purchase and manage services themselves

• **An arrangement** – whereby the local authority, school or college holds the funds and commissions the support specified in the plan **(these are sometimes called notional budgets)**

• **Third party arrangements** – where funds (direct payments) are paid to and managed by an individual or organization, on behalf of the child's parent or the young person

• A combination of the above

Setting and agreeing the personal budget

Local authorities must consider each request for a personal budget on its own individual merits. If a local authority is unable to identify a sum of money they should inform the child's parent or young person of the reasons. For example, the local authority might agree that the provision is needed but may be unable, at that point in time, to disaggregate funding that is currently supporting provision of services to a number of children and young people (block provision).

Please contact Funke Adeloje on 02084660790 or email at is@bromleymencap.org or visit <http://www.bromleyparentvoice.org.uk> for further information