

Factsheet 6

What are personal budgets and direct payments?

For children and young people who have an EHC plan the local authority (LA) should inform parents of their right to request a personal budget.

A personal budget is an allocated amount of money for a specific need recognised by the LA or other Services in order to meet that specific need of the child or young person.

A request to the LA to consider offering a personal budget can be made:

- When a child/young person is undergoing an EHC needs assessment
- When the EHC plan is being reviewed

Once a personal budget has been agreed the funds can stay with the local authority or can be held directly by the parent or young person, school, college or other organisation.

Direct payments

Direct payments from your LA means that you can choose to buy in services for your child instead of having them provided by the LA, NHS or social services.

Before deciding to make direct payments, the LA must be satisfied on several points including:

- That the recipient proposes to use them to secure the agreed provision in the appropriate way
- That the provision is in the best interests of the child or young person

Further detailed information on direct payments and personal budgets can be found in *The Special Educational Needs (Personal Budgets) Regulations 2014*.

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2014/9780111114056

