

How much will I get if I have a Direct Payment?

How much you get will depend on what has been set out in the EHC plan. So it will vary from one person to another. If a local authority has agreed to make a Direct Payment it must be enough to pay for the service or services specified in the EHC plan.

Are there other kinds of budgets?

Yes—some people have had Personal Budgets for health provision (a Personal Health Budget) and for social care provision (e.g Fair Access to Short Breaks). They may have managed some or all of the provision using Direct Payment. But this is the first time that Personal Budgets have become available for SEN provision.

You can find out more about the different kinds of Personal Budgets at;
www.kids.org.uk/yp-personal-budgets

Who to contact

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Please contact us to request translation of Council information into Braille, audio tape or a foreign language.



A valuable source of advice and information offering support to parents/ carers/young people by listening to their concerns around SEND.



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St. Helens



EHCP Fact Leaflet Personal Budget



**St. Helens
Council**

What is a Personal Budget?

A personal budget for SEN is money identified to pay for support specified in a **Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC)** for a child or young person with special educational needs. It can include funds from the local authority for education and social care and from the Clinical Commission Group (CCG) for health.

How can you use your personal budget?

- Sometimes for local authority, school or college will look after the Personal Budget for you. This is called an *Arrangement* or a Notional Payment.
- Sometimes you can receive money directly to manage all or the part of the Personal Budget yourself. This is called a **Direct Payment**.
- Sometimes you can opt to have someone else to manage the Personal Budget for you. This is called a *Third Party Arrangement*.
- Sometimes you can have a mixture of some or all of the arrangements.

Who can have a personal budget?

Parents of the child with an EHC plan, or a young person with an EHC plan, can request a Personal Budget either during the drafting of an EHC plan or once the plan has been issued is under review. You do not need to have a EHC plan, a young person with an EHC plan can get a Personal Budget for social and health care.

What can a Personal Budget be used for?

Personal Budgets can be used **only** to fund the support set out in a EHC plan. This must be agreed by the local authority for education and care support. You can find out what can be Included in a Personal Budget in the **Local Offer**. You can also ask St. Helens IASS for more information about this. A Personal Budget for educational provision cannot cover the payment for a place at the school or college. A Personal Budget can include any top up funding (known as Element 3 funding). It can also include support that is managed by the school or college—but only if the Head Teacher or Principle agree.

What is the difference between Personal Budget and a Direct Payment?

A Personal Budget shows you what money there is to make some of the provision specified in a EHC plan, and who provides it. The parent or young person does not actually manage the funds directly.

With a **Direct Payment** the parent or young person is given the money for some services and manages the funds themselves. The parent or young person is responsible for buying the service and paying for it. A personal budget can include a Direct Payment if it is agreed that this is the best way to manage part of the budget. Direct payments can be used for special education provision in a school or college only if the school or college agree. Local authorities can refuse a direct payment for special educational provision if it would make things worse for children and young people with a EHC plan, or if it would be an efficient way to pay for services.

It is also possible to have a *Third Party Arrangement* to manage a Direct Payment.