

PERSONAL BUDGETS FOR SEN

A Personal Budget is funding allocated to provide support for a child or young person with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) as part of their Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). This funding can come from education, health, and social care services.

WHAT IS A PERSONAL BUDGET? A Personal Budget can include:

Arrangements or Notional Budgets: Managed by the local authority, school, or college on behalf of the child/young person.

Direct Payments: Managed directly by the parent or young person to purchase specified services.

Third Party Arrangements: Managed by someone else on behalf of the parent or young person.

A combination of the above options.

Parents or young people must always be involved in planning how the budget will be used.



WHO CAN HAVE A PERSONAL BUDGET?

- Parents of children with an EHCP.
- Young people aged 16+ with an EHCP can request their own Personal Budget.
- You can also request a Personal Budget during the EHCP assessment process, even before the plan is finalised.

You are not required to have a Personal Budget, and the local authority must explain their decision if they refuse your request.

WHAT CAN A PERSONAL BUDGET BE USED FOR?

A Personal Budget can only fund the support and provision specified in an EHCP to achieve the plan's agreed outcomes. It cannot be used for:

- School or college placement fees.
- General SEN Support for children without an EHCP.

However, it can include Element 3 funding (top-up funding for specific provision). If a school or college manages the support, the Headteacher or Principal must agree for it to be included in a Personal Budget.





PERSONAL BUDGETS VS DIRECT PAYMENTS

A **Personal Budget** identifies the funds available and who provides the services. The parent or young person doesn't manage the funds directly.

A **Direct Payment** gives the parent or young person control over the funds, allowing them to purchase and manage services themselves.

Direct Payments for education provision require the agreement of the school or college and must cover the costs specified in the EHCP.

OTHER TYPES OF PERSONAL BUDGETS

Personal Health Budgets: For health-related support.

Social Care Budgets: Such as funding for short breaks.

WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION

For more details, refer to **Sections 9.96–9.118** of the **SEND Code of Practice** or Shropshire Local Offer: [Visit the Local Offer website](#)

WHERE TO GET ADVICE AND GUIDANCE?

Shropshire SENDIASS,
contact details below

