

## What does the term Personal Budget really mean?

The term Personal Budget is a term first used by adult social care. It is now also used by education, health and children's social care. Cornwall Council and NHS Kernow agree that: 'a personal budget is the additional resources required to meet a person's assessed needs'. The table sets out the meaning of this umbrella term across education, health and social care.

### Personal Budgets 0-25

Education	Health	Social Care under 18	Social Care over 18
<p>The SEND Code of Practice 0-25 states that: 'A <b>Personal Budget</b> is an amount of money identified by the Local Authority to deliver the provision set out in an <b>Education, Health &amp; Care Plan (EHC plan)</b>' (CoP 9.95 p 178)</p> <p>The provision set out in the EHC plan is primarily to meet the child/young person's special educational needs. The <b>EHC Personal Budget</b> is therefore used to support the child/young person's education.</p> <p>Depending on needs it is possible for a small proportion of families to have an '<b>education direct payment</b>'.</p>	<p>Children and young people who have 'continuing health care' needs and have a '<b>Health Care Plan</b>' have the option of having a <b>Personal Health Budget</b>.</p> <p><b>Personal Health Budget</b> A personal health budget describes the amount needed to fund a child or young person's NHS healthcare and support needs.</p> <p>A '<b>health direct payment</b>' is one way of managing these budgets, where the young person or their family get the cash to buy the agreed care and support they need.</p>	<p>Following a social work assessment, children and young people who meet the threshold for social care support, may be eligible to receive resources to meet their identified social care needs.</p> <p>The provision to meet these assessed needs is described in their '<b>Child Plan</b>'.</p> <p>Resources to meet identified needs may be made available as a '<b>direct cash payment</b>', may be directly commissioned, or arranged, by Cornwall Council and paid directly to the organisation providing the agreed support.</p>	<p>If an adult has social care needs, and they are assessed as being eligible, they can have an <b>Adult Social Care Personal Budget</b>.</p> <p>An indicative budget is agreed and the adult with social care needs is involved in planning the support and provision paid for by this budget. This is described in the adult's '<b>Care and Support Plan</b>'.</p> <p>It is possible for an adult to have part of their personal budget as a '<b>direct payment</b>'. This can be managed by the adult themselves or someone on their behalf.</p>
<p>In Cornwall if a child or young person has an Education, Health and Care Plan, they or their family can request a <b>Personal Budget Statement</b>. This statement brings together in one place the <b>EHC personal budget</b> (to meet educational needs), the <b>health personal budget</b> and the children/adult's <b>social care personal budget</b>.</p> <p><b>Direct payments</b> may be an aspect of one, some or all the budgets.</p>			

## Personal Budgets

Personal Budgets are designed to give people more choice and control over the support and provision they receive. The personal budgets approach is embedded in a number of pieces of legislation and is continuing to develop nationally across social care, health and education.

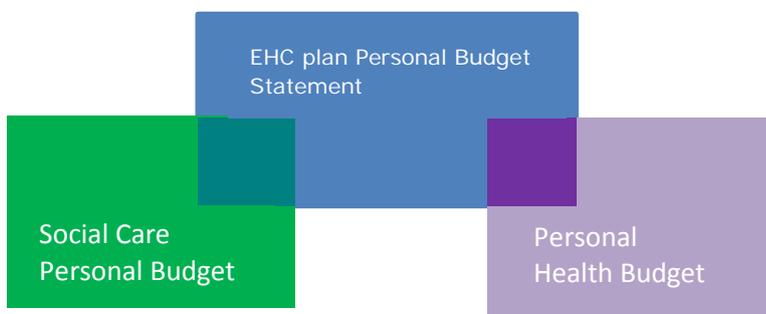
Education, health and social care all use criteria to determine whether someone is eligible to receive additional resources in the form of a personal budget.

### **What is an Education Health and Care plan Personal Budget Statement?**

If a child/young person has an Education, Health and Care plan (EHC plan) they or their parents/carers can request a **Personal Budget Statement**. This statement sets out the additional funding available for the provision identified in the EHC plan.

The Personal Budget Statement gives clarity about how much additional funding has been allocated and if any of this is available as a direct cash payment.

Requesting a Personal Budget Statement is optional and when allocated does not mean there will be extra funding in addition to that allocated to support the EHC plan. It is separate from the EHC plan as it is not a statutory document.



Depending on the needs of the child/young person a Personal Budget Statement may or may not include elements of a Social Care Personal Budget and/or a Personal Health Budget. It is prepared by Cornwall Council.

Please see an example of a Personal Budget Statement template at the end of this document.

### **When can a young person/family request a Personal Budget Statement?**

Young people or families can request a Personal Budget Statement

- when a child/young person is undergoing a statutory EHC needs assessment
- when a statement of SEN or a learning needs assessment (LNA) is being converted to an EHC plan
- at the review of an EHC plan

### **When will the Personal Budget Statement be updated?**

The Personal Budget Statement is a summary statement and can be updated on request at an annual review of an EHC plan.

## **EHC plan Personal Budgets (education)**

## What is an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan Personal Budget?

An EHC plan Personal Budget is the funding needed to meet the additional and individual **educational needs** of a child/young person. This is made up of:

- element 2 and element 3 (top up) education funding  
Ring the Family Information Service on 01872 323 535 to request a leaflet.)
- and
- any social care or health funding which supports the child/young person's educational needs and outcomes that are outlined in their EHC plan.

## What makes up an EHC Personal Budget?

An EHC Personal Budget can be made up of:

- **direct provision** (sometimes referred to as a **notional budget**) where NHS Kernow, the Local Authority (LA) or educational setting holds the funds and commissions the provision
- **direct payments** - where young people or families receive cash to contract, manage and manage services. This cash is paid into a bank account
- **third party arrangements** - where young people or families give their direct payment to another individual or organisation to manage it on their behalf.
- **combination of the above.**

Sometimes **direct provision** is the only way that additional support can be made available. This can be because of contractual arrangements that have been made when a service supports a number of children and young people.

If part of the Personal Budget is allocated as a **direct cash payment** it will be recorded in **section J** of a child or young person's EHC plan.

## Do young people and families have to have direct payments as part of an EHC personal Budget?

Young people and families only have to have direct payments if they wish to do so.

## Will there be an increase in the range of provision that can be accessed by EHC plan direct payments in the future?

Over time there should be an increase in the range of provision that can be accessed by direct payments.

## Can families who educate their children at home access direct payments?

Where the LA and family agree that home education is the right provision for the child or young person with an EHC plan the LA will arrange the SEN provision set out in the EHC plan and the family may be able to access a direct payment.

Where the EHC plan identifies the name of a school or type of school where the child could be educated but the family decides to educate the child or young person at home, the LA is no longer under a duty to make the SEN provision set out in the EHC plan. In this case the family will not be able to access a direct payment.

### **How do I get further information?**

For more information about EHC plan Personal Budgets please contact your SEN Assessment and Provision team case manager on 01872 324242

## **Personal Health Budgets**

### **Who can access a Personal Health Budget?**

Children and young people who have 'continuing health care' needs and have a 'Health Care Plan' have the option of having a Personal Health Budget.

### **What is a Personal Health Budget?**

A personal health budget describes the amount needed to fund a child or young person's NHS healthcare and support needs.

### **What is a Health Direct payment?**

A 'health direct payment' is one way of managing these budgets. This is where the young person or their family get the cash to buy the agreed care and support they need.

For further information on Personal Health Budgets please follow this link  
<http://www.england.nhs.uk/healthbudgets/>

## **Children's Social Care Personal Budgets**

### **Who is eligible for a personal budget from Children's Social Care?**

- Children and young people must have had an assessment undertaken by a social care

worker, and meet the threshold for support from social care. A need must have been identified that requires social care support and

- The child or young person must be ordinarily resident in Cornwall.

You can request an assessment of need for the disabled child or young person and it may be that a personal budget will be offered to meet any identified needs.

Details about direct payments can be found in our Direct Payment Policy document, which is available at: [www.cornwall.gov.uk/cypdirectpayments](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/cypdirectpayments)

Details about personal budgets can be found in our Personal Budgets Policy document, which is available at: [www.cornwall.gov.uk/cyppersonalbudgets](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/cyppersonalbudgets)

### **Can I choose whether to have a Personal Budget Statement?**

Yes. We will ask you whether you would like to be sent a personal budget statement. We understand that some families would choose to receive a statement, whilst others may prefer not to.

### **Will I be asked to make a financial contribution?**

No. If a child, or a young person aged below 18, is assessed as eligible, the personal budget is to be used to meet their identified assessed needs, and we will not ask the young person or parents or carers to make a financial contribution.

However, if the family wish to purchase additional support or services above the costs of the identified assessed needs, then they are able to “top up” the direct payment funds at their own discretion.

Most care and support for disabled children and young people is provided by families in their local communities. However, for some children and young people with additional needs, which have been identified through an assessment, additional support from social care may be required, this can be delivered through a personal budget.

### **How can a personal budget be managed?**

Support may be made available to children, young people and families in different ways, dependent upon their individual needs, for example:

- Direct cash payments – an amount of money that is paid directly to the young person, parent or carer, so that they arrange and pay for the support or services themselves from the payments they receive. A separate bank or building society account will need to be opened to enable payments to be made;
- Directly provided support – Cornwall Council makes the arrangements with the organisation providing the agreed support or service, and will pay them directly. Payments are not made to the young person, parent or carer;
- Third party arrangements – direct cash payments are managed on behalf of the young person, parent or carer. This may be an individual or an organisation chosen by the young person, parent or carer;
- A combination of direct cash payments or directly provided support. Young people or parents and carers may choose to take some of the personal budget as a direct cash payment and ask Cornwall Council to arrange the rest on their behalf.

Please note: we may not always be able to give you the direct cash payment for provision that has been identified in the assessment, as this funding may be needed to support existing directly managed provision for example, residential short break provision.

## What are the benefits?

Personal budgets can offer young people, parents and carers more choice on the way they are supported and who will provide the support. We understand the importance of children and young people accessing the right support at the right time. The social care worker will discuss with you the best way to meet identified outcomes.

Below are some of the views of young people and families that have received a direct payment, as part of a personal budget to meet social care needs:

*'personal budgets have opened up so many doors for us, lots of the things we wanted to do, we can do now, spending the money on what is needed.'*

***'when I'm thinking of moving out, a personal budget will give me the independence to do it. It gives me more opportunities and choice over my life.'***

*'Our family have had direct payments since 2003 and we can build on the success of direct payments with a personal budget.'*

***'I've already spoken with other families about pooling our funds to share personal assistants and travel costs. A personal budget makes you look for the best way of using the money available to you.'***

*'the flexibility of direct payments is great and has made a huge difference to our lives.'*

***'we're very happy with the way direct payments work for us, having a personal assistant makes things easier when our family go out together.'***

*'Direct payments are brilliant; I wish we had done it years ago.'*

***'if you get the chance to be offered a personal budget, have a go, what have you got to lose?'***

## What is the difference between a direct payment and a personal budget?

A young person or parent or carer can receive a direct payment if a child or young person has been assessed as having an identified need and the Council gives them the cash instead of arranging or providing a service.

A personal budget is the total provision or resources of all the support that is needed to support the disabled child or young person; regardless of how that support is provided (this may include support from education, health and social care, based on assessed needs). Within the personal budget, you may choose to have some support paid to you by a direct payment, whilst other support could be arranged directly by the Council. If you choose a direct payment, this will be part of the personal budget.



### Can I have a personal budget without having a direct payment?

Yes. If you do not want a direct payment, we will arrange the support to meet the identified needs on your behalf.

### How often will there be a personal budget review?

Once agreed, the personal budget should enable support or services to meet the child or young person's identified needs and should cover a 12 month period. If, in the meantime, the child or young person's needs change or there is a change in family circumstances, contact us as soon as possible and the personal budget for social care may be reviewed.

A social care review will be undertaken every six months or earlier if there is a change in needs or circumstances.

If you have a direct payment as part of the personal budget, the Personalisation Support Team, will visit six to eight weeks after the direct payment has been set up, and then at regular six monthly intervals.

The Personalisation Support Team are available for you to contact if you require any help with the direct payment on 01872 323059 or email at [cypdirectpayments@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:cypdirectpayments@cornwall.gov.uk)

### What happens if the support is not working?

If you decide that the support you have in place is not working well, for example, you are employing a personal assistant and would prefer to have support delivered in another way, let us know as soon as possible.

For further information on Children's Social Care Personal Budgets please contact the Personalisation Support Team by email to [cypdirectpayments@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:cypdirectpayments@cornwall.gov.uk) or ring 03001234101

## Personal Budgets – Adult's Social Care

### Who can access an Adult Social Care Personal Budget?

The process starts with an assessment of the persons social care needs. If the assessment identifies needs which are eligible then the person can have an Adult Social Care Personal Budget. We also work out how much they need to contribute - we call this their financial assessment.

### When is it decided how much the personal budget will be?

If you have eligible social care needs, you will have been given a suggested (we call this 'indicative') budget and you can begin to plan the support you need, to meet your eligible social care needs. The Care and Support Plan is your plan of action, and for you to say what kind of care and support you would like and how you would like to spend your personal budget, to meet your eligible needs.

### Can some of the Personal Budget be accessed as a direct payment?

It is possible for an adult to have part or all of the personal budget as a 'direct payment'. This can be managed by the adult themselves or someone on their behalf. Some people use a Direct Cash Payment to employ Personal Assistants, others buy the support they need from an Agency. Sometimes the personal budget will only pay for the person's respite.

For further information about Adult Social Care Personal Budgets please contact the Access Team by email to [accessteam.referral@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:accessteam.referral@cornwall.gov.uk) or ring 03001234131

Web referrals via Cornwall Council website <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/>

By post to PO box 270, St Austell PL25 9E

Or for information on Direct Payments please contact The Direct Payment Advice Team by email to [directpaymentsadviceteam@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:directpaymentsadviceteam@cornwall.gov.uk) or ring 01872 324357

## PERSONAL BUDGET STATEMENT



Name of child of child or young person	Date of birth
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This personal budget statement is based on the current Education, Health & Care Plan, the most recent social care assessment and the latest Continuing Care Assessment from Health.

### Summary of resources

The resources listed are intended to meet additional needs and do not include those which provide universal services (any service that any child or young person may access, for example general provision from schools, GPs, hospitals etc).

The amounts below are correct at the time of writing and may fluctuate in order to meet the needs of the child/young person. An updated version can be requested at the annual review of the Education, Health and Care plan.

### Education Provision

Provided by the educational setting (from delegated funds)	£
Directly provided to the education setting by the local authority	£
Direct Cash Payment	£

Date that the above was agreed:

### Social Care Provision

Directly commissioned or provided by local authority	£
Direct Cash Payment	£

Date that the above was agreed:

### Health Provision

Number of hours for Children's Continuing Care or Adult Continuing Health Care or value of Personal Health Budget awarded	
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Date that the above was agreed: