

SEND Personal Budgets

Case Studies & Guidance

Guidance on Personal Education Budgets

- The case studies are specifically for the **education** element of personal budgets
- Personal budgets within the context of an EHC Plan can contain three elements: **social care, health & education**
- The education element of a personal budget can only be derived from **top up funding** where a child or young person is eligible for an EHC Plan.
- Personal Budgets are sometimes called **Direct Payments**, Direct Payments are simply a type of Personal Budget.
- There are three types of personal budget:
 - NOTIONAL BUDGET: No money changes hands, and you find out how much is available for your assessed needs, together with the local authority you decide on how to spend that money
 - THIRD PARTY BUDGET: An organisation legally independent of both you, the education setting & local authority. (for example, an independent user trust or a voluntary organisation) holds the money for you, pays for and arranges the care and support agreed in your care plan.
 - DIRECT PAYMENT: You get the money to buy the care and support you and your NHS team agree you need. You must show what you have spent it on, but you, or your representative, buy and manage services yourself.

Case 1: Direct Payment provided to parents for LSA within an early years setting

- Child attending an independent provision with no additional LSA support available directly.
- Local authority agreed to support the young person directly by providing funding for an LSA to work within the setting.
- Agreement given to fund the equivalent of 21 hours of LSA support at a rate of £15.04 (high needs funding)

Case 2: Elective Home Education before moving into a named provision

- Young person transitioning from elective home education to mainstream school.
- They were due to have a statutory package of SEN Support, with additional top up funding available.
- Personal budget provided in order to aid the young person's transition into mainstream school
- Local authority agreed to fund sessions of additional tutoring in order to enable the young person to catch up and prepare for their return to school

Case 3: Direct Payment for care worker support in mainstream school.

- Local authority has agreed LSA Support for a young person to meet the needs contained within the EHC Plan.
- Young person has physical needs and requested a care worker to support with personal care, rather than the LSA.
- Education setting agrees and a direct payment is provided to the family in order to employ a care worker during school hours.
- The remainder of the top-up funding is managed by the education setting, which is used to provide LSA support in class.

More information / guidance

- You can find more information, and provide information to young people, parents & families in the following places:
- Lewisham Local Offer:
<http://www.lewishamlocaloffer.org.uk/#/topicSchoolStage/page/-K927x2wCQO3zxcTYPde/personal-budgets>
- KIDS: <https://www.kids.org.uk/yp-personal-budgets>
- Special Needs Jungle FAQ: <https://specialneedsjungle.com/faq/personal-budget/>

Other Local Authorities Websites: Example from Gloucestershire with Case Studies:
https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/4481/gcc_1188_personal_sen_budgets_a5-web8079.pdf

What to do if a personal budget is agreed

- If it is a notional personal budget, then you just need to include the details in section J of the EHC Plan
- If it is a **direct payment** you also need to include the details in section J of the EHC plan, additionally you must **request a direct payment form & agreement** from the **Short Breaks Team**:
shortbreaks@lewisham.gov.uk