

**Personal Budgets for Children and Young
People with Special Educational Needs
and/or a Disability.**

Introduction

This guide is for people who are interested in a in the personal budget pilot in Bath and North East Somerset.

What is a personal budget?

A personal budget is an allocation that is available from Bath and North East Somerset CCG and Bath and North East Somerset Children's Social Care services to pay for support. This can give you more choice about the way you are supported and who provides this support.

Who can have a personal budget?

We want to make sure that people with the greatest needs receive the most support. To get a personal budget you must be assessed as having a specialist need for health or social care services.

Children and Young People who may be eligible for a personal budget are:

- Residents of Bath and North East Somerset who are from 18 months to 25 years old

- have special educational needs and/or a disability
- are eligible for specialist social care services from the child disability teams, or support from
The CCG Children's Continuing Care team.

What can you use a personal budget for?

You can use a personal budget to pay for agreed items or services which reach the goals identified in your assessment.

Some of these could be:

- Support to take part in activities in Your community
- support to make new friends
- services or personal assistants to
Provide you with care and support.

How to get a personal budget?

The first step in getting a personal budget is to have an assessment of needs. This will be the same as any other assessment for a health or social care service.

After the assessment your lead professional will work with you to

Develop a care plan. The plan will be used to work out an estimate of what may be available to you to meet your support needs. This is known as an 'Indicative amount'. It is a guide to what may be available to help you meet your needs.

The actual sum you receive may be smaller than the indicative amount. This will depend upon both your personal situation and the local cost and availability of the particular type of support you require.

It is then your choice if you wish to receive a direct service or if you wish to receive a personal budget as an alternative or a combination of both.

Person centred plan

After assessment, if you choose to use a personal budget your lead professional will work with you on a person centred plan, or you can develop your own plan.

The plan sets out how you want to be supported and how you would like to spend your personal budget. You might want to involve your family or friends to help you make these decisions.

When you make your plan, think about:

- The support you want to keep you healthy, safe, independent and well

- What works and doesn't work in your life at the moment
- What is important to you and what you want to do in the future
- How to make these things happen

The final amount you are allocated as a personal budget will be set when a plan has been agreed with you, but it will never be greater than the indicative amount.

Making sure the plan is working

About a month after your support begins your lead professional will review the plan with you to make sure it is meeting your needs. You can discuss what is working well and anything that might need to change.

If you want to change your plan because you think that there might be a better way of meeting your needs, you can discuss this with your lead professional.

At the review a date will be set for the next review. However, you can contact us at any time if you feel your plan is not meeting your needs, or you feel unsafe or worried.

Managing your personal budget

We will work with you to help you decide how your budget is managed. We anticipate that most people will receive a monthly direct payment which they can then use to pay for their support. You can contact us at any time if you are worried about how to manage your personal budget.

You can contact us through the following team:

Disabled Children's Team 01225 duty officer between 8.30 and 5 Monday to Thursday or 8.30 and 4.30 on Fridays on 01225 825307; email Nora_Ryan@bathnes.gov.uk write to us at Bath & Wessex House, Royal United Hospital, Combe Park, Bath, BA1 3NG.