

Special Educational Needs  
and Disability Information,  
Advice & Support Service

# sendiass

in Suffolk

## Personal Budgets



Information,  
Advice & Support  
Services Network  
for SEND

[www.suffolksendiass.co.uk](http://www.suffolksendiass.co.uk)

# Personal budgets for SEN

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**This information is about personal budgets for children and young people with special educational needs.**

You can access the **SEND Code of Practice** online at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and search 'SEND Code of Practice'.

## What is a Personal Budget?

A Personal Budget for SEN is money set aside to fund support as part of an Education, Health and Care plan (EHC plan) for a child or young person with special educational needs. It can include funds from Education, Health and Social Care.

Parents or the young person must always be involved in planning the Personal Budget.

Sometimes the local authority, school or college will look after the Personal Budget for the parents or young person. This is called an Arrangement or a Notional Budget.

Sometimes the parents or the young person may manage all or part of the Personal Budget themselves. The money to do this will come from a **Direct Payment**.

Sometimes someone else will manage the Personal Budget for the parents or young person. This is called a Third Party Arrangement.

Sometimes the parent or young person will have a mixture of some or all of these arrangements.

## Who can have a Personal Budget?

Parents of a child with an EHC plan, or a young person who has an **EHC plan**, can ask for a Personal Budget. You can also ask for a Personal Budget if your child has been assessed as needing an EHC plan, but this has not yet been finalised. However you do not have to have a Personal Budget.

The **SEND Code of Practice** says:

Local authorities **must** provide information on Personal Budgets as part of the Local Offer. This should include a policy on Personal Budgets that sets out a description of the services across education, health and social care that currently lend themselves to the use of Personal Budgets, how that funding will be made available, and clear and simple statements of eligibility criteria and the decision-making processes. 9.96

You can find Suffolk's personal budget policy on the Local Offer website: [www.suffolklocaloffer.org.uk](http://www.suffolklocaloffer.org.uk)

A young person with an EHC plan can ask for their own Personal Budget after the end of the school year in which they become 16.

Sometimes the local authority may not agree to a Personal Budget. If that happens the local authority should tell you why.



## What can a Personal Budget be used for?

A Personal Budget can be used only on the support set out in an EHC plan. This can include funding for the special educational, health and social care support that will help to achieve the outcomes set out in the Plan.

You can find out what can be included as a personal budget in the Local Authority's personal budget policy.. You can also ask **SENDIASS** for more information about this.

A Personal Budget does not cover payment for a place at the school or college, or the general provision for children or young people, including those who need **SEN Support**. A Personal Budget does include any top up funding (known as Element 3 funding) that is for provision specified in an EHC plan. It can also include support that is managed by the school or college – but only if the Headteacher or Principal agree.

You can find out more about what can be included in a Personal Budget in Sections 9.110 to 9.118 of the **SEND Code of Practice**.

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

A Personal Budget shows you what money there is to make some of the provision specified in an 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 Personal Budget.

Direct payments can be used for special educational provision only if the school or college agree.

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

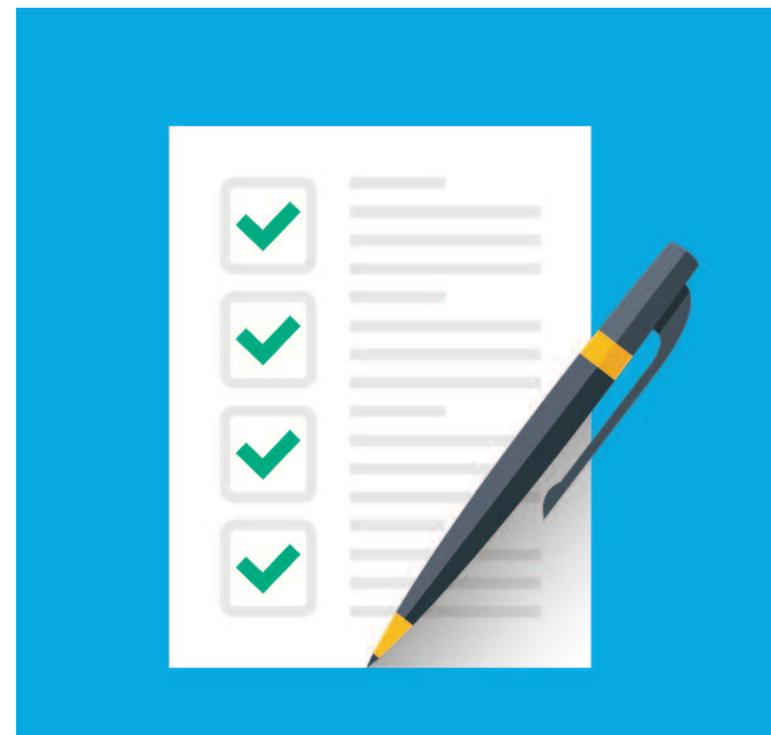
## How much will I get if I have Direct Payments?

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 the 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 Personal Budget?

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 a Direct Payment. But this is the first time that Personal Budgets have become available for SEN provision.



## Where can I get further information, advice or support?

You can find Suffolk's personal budget policy on the Local Offer website: [www.suffolklocaloffer.org.uk](http://www.suffolklocaloffer.org.uk)

**SENDIASS** can also give you:

- more information about Personal Budgets, including Direct Payments
- advice on whether you may be able to get a Personal Budget and how you can apply for it
- information and advice on local services, organisations, and resources that may be able to help
- information, advice and support on what you can do if you are unhappy with the local authority's decision on your Personal Budget.



## Further Information

View our other information leaflets and resources at [www.suffolksendiass.co.uk/leaflets](http://www.suffolksendiass.co.uk/leaflets)



**Information:** You may find it helpful to look at our other leaflets and information on our website, social media channels and through our workshops and courses.



**Advice:** We provide unbiased information and advice about what the law says, the local authority's policies and procedures, and about the policy and practice in local schools or other settings.



**Support:** We can help you by listening to your views and concerns, and working with you to explore your options.

## Useful Links

Activities Unlimited (short breaks and leisure activities for disabled children and young people up to age 25 in Suffolk) [www.activities-unlimited.co.uk](http://www.activities-unlimited.co.uk)

Anglia Care Trust (local SEND mediation services) [www.angliacaretrust.org.uk](http://www.angliacaretrust.org.uk)

Contact (for families with disabled children) [www.contact.org.uk](http://www.contact.org.uk)

Child Law Advice (education law advice for families) [www.childlawadvice.org.uk](http://www.childlawadvice.org.uk)

Council for Disabled Children (umbrella body for the disabled children's sector) [www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk](http://www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk)

SEND Code of Practice (explains the statutory duties of schools and local authorities) [www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25)

SEND Tribunals Service (organisation responsible for handling claims) [www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/send](http://www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/send)

The Source (for young people in Suffolk) [www.thesource.me.uk](http://www.thesource.me.uk)

Suffolk Local Offer (for the full range of services and support for children and young people with SEND) [www.suffolklocaloffer.org.uk](http://www.suffolklocaloffer.org.uk)

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Providing confidential and impartial information, advice and support to help children, parents and young people take part in decisions that affect their lives.



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01473 265210



ADVICE4ME to 87007



If you need help to understand this information in another language please call **03456 066 067**.

Se precisar de ajuda para ler estas informações em outra língua, por favor telefone para o número abaixo.

**Portuguese**

Jeżeli potrzebujesz pomocy w zrozumieniu tych informacji w swoim języku zadzwoń na podany poniżej numer.

**Polish**

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**Bengali**

Jeigu jums reikia šios informacijos kita kalba, paskambinkite 03456 066 067

**Lithuanian**

Dacă aveți nevoie de ajutor pentru a înțelege această informație într-o altă limbă, vă rugăm să telefonați la numărul 03456 066 067

**Romanian**

Если для того чтобы понять эту информацию Вам нужна помощь на другом языке, позвоните, пожалуйста, по телефону 03456 066 067.

**Russian**

If you would like this information in another format, including audio or large print, please call **03456 066 067**.



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