

From 1st of September 2014, the Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on Local Authorities and Health Authorities to offer children and their parents the option of a **Personal Budget** as one means of achieving the outcomes detailed in their child or young person's **Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan)**.

A Personal Budget will reflect the holistic nature of the Plan itself, and can include funding for educational, health or social care provision. The Personal Budget will be used by the young person or their parents to secure the provision or resources that will achieve the outcomes for their child or young person, that are set out in their EHC Plan.

At present some parents are receiving Direct Payments to provide for their own child or young person's social care needs. For those children with an EHC Plan, new legislation now allows health authorities and local authorities to extend this opportunity to include educational and health provision.

What is a Personal Budget?

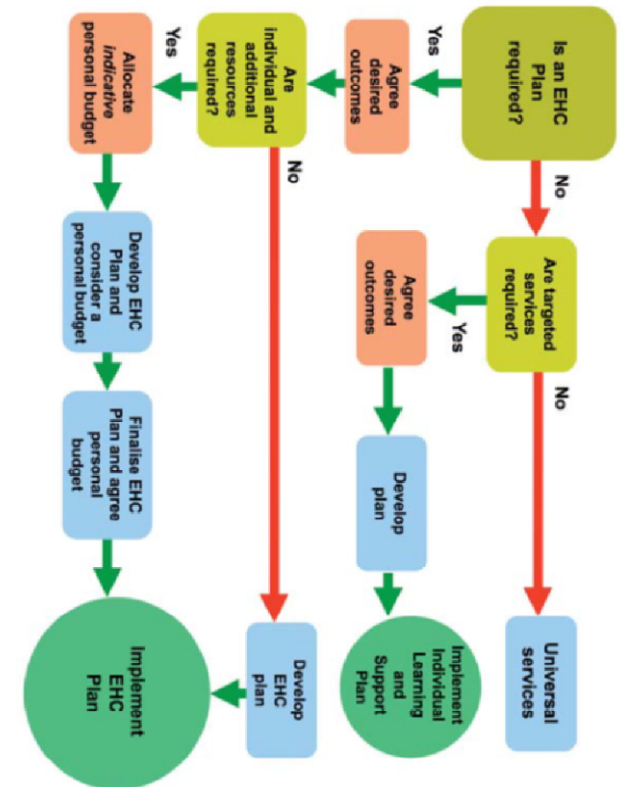
The amount of money identified by the Local Authority that is required to pay for the support or resources that will enable a child or young person with SEN and/or disability to achieve the outcomes set out in their EHC Plan. Where these outcomes can not be achieved using existing services, a Personal Budget can be offered to parents to enable them to secure their own provision or resources. Personal Budgets may include funding for educational, health or social care provision, but must be linked to the outcomes in the EHC Plan.

All parents of children and young people with an EHC Plan have the right to request a Personal Budget, either during the initial assessment for an EHC Plan or during the review of an existing EHC Plan.

Personal Budgets are only one part of the total support on offer from health and local authorities, and they are not compulsory.

How do I request a Personal Budget?

During the initial assessment for an EHC Plan or during a review, decisions will be made, in conjunction with young people and their families, about how best to meet the identified educational, health and social care outcomes set out in the EHC Plan. These decisions will determine whether it is neces-



sary or desirable for there to be a Personal Budget to meet the agreed outcomes.

If a personal budget is requested by parents or a young person, the local authority must consider the request and prepare a budget. The scope and content of the Personal Budget will vary depending on the needs of the individual, local circumstances and existing provision.