

BRISTOL PARENT CARERS
PERSONAL BUDGETS

Introduction

A Personal Budget is an amount of money identified by a service provider (the Council or NHS) that a parent or young person has the option to control so that they are in charge of elements of their support. The Reforms require personal budgets to be available to deliver all or some of the provision set out in an Education, Health, and Care Plan.

There are 3 different types of personal budgets:-

- Social Care budgets are for a child/young person needing support at home and out and about in the wider community
- Health budgets are for those with a complex, long-term, or life-limiting condition
- SEN budgets are for pupils/students with complex learning support needs.

A parent or young person has 4 choices about the level of control they want:-

- i. The family can choose to take the personal budget as a direct payment and manage it themselves
- ii. The family can ask a 3rd party service/organisation to manage it on their behalf. This is called an individual service plan
- iii. The family can ask the local authority to manage it on their behalf
- iv. A family can choose to have a mix of the 3 options.

In Bristol

Bristol authorities plan to show parent carers of children with EHC Plans:-

- a. the total cost of the package of support that their child/young person receives, and the different cost elements
- b. which elements are tied into large contracts or tied up in fixed services and cannot be accessed
- c. which elements are available for parent carers/young people to have more control over, if they wish.

Before parental control can be offered for any sort of expense under c) above, personal budgets will start in only 4 pilot test areas to see how the system will work – the expenses for the pilots are likely to be:-

- for Education – travel to school
- for Social Care – a short breaks voucher scheme
- for Health – continence products
- for Health – continuing health care packages.

Bristol Parent Carers' reps are working with the authorities to develop the personal budgets' system and the details of these pilots.

The pilots are due to start from September 2014. Families in receipt of an EHC Plan who wish to have a personal budget can request to be part of one of the pilots. Once lessons from the pilots have been learnt, it will be possible to offer personal budgets to more families. After that it will be possible to offer personal budgets for expenses beyond the 4 pilot areas. This system will be phased in from 2014 to 2017.

If you have any views on the reforms, please email them to: sendplus@bristol.gov.uk, if you want to get involved, [contact us](#).