

What cannot be bought using a Personal SEND Budget?

- Anything that is not identified on the child/young person's Education, Health and Care plan
- Health or social care provision that will not achieve identified educational outcomes on the child/young person's Education, Health and Care plan
- Independent school fees

Frequently Asked Questions

Would a Personal budget affect any other benefits I receive?

No, Personal budgets are not a "benefit" so it would not affect any other social security benefits you may receive.

Do I pay tax on a Personal Budget?

No, personal budgets and direct payments are not classed as income so you don't pay tax.

What do I need to do if I receive the Personal Budget directly (a direct payment)?

If you decide to have the money paid to and managed by yourself, you will need to sign a direct payment agreement and:

- Open a separate bank account just for your direct payment to be paid into.
- Keep proper records and receipts on how you have spend your funds – these will be monitored by the Local Authority and requested during the year (this is called an Audit)

Further information/support

SEND Team

ehcp@torbay.gov.uk

Tel. 01803 208274

[Education – Personal Budgets - Family Hub](#)

SENDIASS (*Special Educational Needs & Disability Information, Advice and Support Service*)

[Sendiass Torbay | Torbay](#)

Tel. 01803 207884

Personal Budgets for Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) in Torbay

TORBAY
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This is a quick guide for families who are interested in finding out more about Personal Budgets for SEND.



Explaining Personal Budgets for SEND in Torbay

A SEND Personal Budget is a sum of funding for a child or young person with an Education, Health and Care Plan. You, as a parent or young person, can use it to get the support you need. You can discuss how it could be used with your SEND Officer and decide how you want the funding managed.

A SEND Personal Budget could be some or all of the Element 3 funding allocated by Torbay Council to meet the additional and individual educational needs of your child or young person.

It might be possible to use some of the additional SEND funding within the school / college budget (what we call Element 2) as a personal budget, but this will only be with the agreement of the school or college.

Some of the support and provision for your child may be funded through contracts or provided by us (Speech and language Therapy for example). This funding won't be available as part of a Personal SEND Budget.

Who can request a SEND Personal Budget & how to apply?

A small number of children and young people need additional and individual support to enable them to access learning activities, to be included within their education setting and to achieve well. These children and young people will have an Education, Health and Care Plan.

Young people or parents of children with an Education, Health and Care Plan can request a personal budget by talking to their SEND Officer or emailing the SEND Team on ehcp@torbay.gov.uk. You can request a Personal Budget at any time, as well as discussing this further at your annual review.

Indicative Personal Budget

When the local authority agrees that an Education, Health and Care Plan is needed, we will allocate an indicative personal budget. The indicative personal budget is an additional and individual estimate of the funding required to meet the child or young person's educational needs through [Element 3 – Top-up funding – High Needs Block](#) and using the Torbay needs led funding matrix.

Parents and young people will be told the indicative budget available and can work with everyone involved to agree what could be put in place to meet the child or young person's educational needs and outcomes.

If you are interested in a Personal Budget to meet your child / your needs using a provider of your choice or in some other way, you can discuss this and your other options with your SEND Officer.

What will happen?

The SEND Officer will spend some time looking into your request before going through the options with you. We can discuss, explore and consider creative ideas for using SEND Personal Budgets as long as they are appropriate to meet identified educational outcomes. If a service can meet a young person's needs within a reasonable cost and there are no funding barriers (e.g. block contracts) then we are committed to work with families to meet their wishes.

Thinking about meeting your child's SEND needs differently?

Talk to your SEND Officer or school / college about ideas you may have

Your SEND Officer and the school / college will look into your request and work out if it is possible

What can be bought using a Personal Budget for SEND?

Any spend must be detailed in the agreed Education, Health and Care Plan and must be set against an identified educational outcome. Examples include:

- Some activity or staffing to be delivered in the education setting (with permission of the Head Teacher or Principal) or elsewhere
- Equipment
- Something bought specifically for an individual child/young person e.g. play therapy (Individually commissioned services)
- Activities or staffing for a group of children/young people with Education, Health and Care Plans e.g. art therapy (Group commissioned services)
- Advice and assistance from an organisation to help manage a Personal Budget as a direct payments (if there is a reasonable charge by the organisation)