



Nottinghamshire  
County Council

# Personal Budgets

What do they mean for you?



[www.nottinghamshire.sendlocaloffer.org.uk](http://www.nottinghamshire.sendlocaloffer.org.uk)

in partnership with



## Personal Budgets

This leaflet is about Personal Budgets for children and young people with special educational needs, who have an Education, Health and Care plan (EHC plan). In September 2014, statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Section 139a Learning Difficulty Assessments (LDA) were replaced by EHC plans.

Where a child or young person has an EHC plan the young person or parent/ carer can request a Personal Budget, but do not have to have one.

A Personal Budget is an amount of money available to fund the support described in the plan which parents or the young person may be involved in arranging.

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

Personal Budgets enable the **Council** and **Health** to share decisions about support and provision with children or young people and their families with the belief that **if people have more control over the resources available to them they will find the best solutions and support that works best for them.**

If you are not eligible for an EHC plan you can still access many of the services and provision that are detailed within the SEND Local Offer – [www.nottinghamshire.sendlocaloffer.org.uk](http://www.nottinghamshire.sendlocaloffer.org.uk). You can get support in accessing the SEND Local Offer in libraries, children's centres, schools and other settings, or by speaking to the professionals working with your family. The County Council's Customer Service Centre - **0300 500 80 80** can also advise you on what is available through the SEND Local Offer.

## Who Can Have a Personal Budget?

If your child has an EHC plan issued by Nottinghamshire you may request to have a Personal Budget to meet the outcomes detailed in the plan. Some parts of the Personal Budget could be taken as a direct payment to you, or a suitable person on your behalf.

Sometimes the Local Authority may not agree to a Personal Budget. If that happens, the Local Authority will tell you why.

### What Can You Use a Personal Budget For?

To pay for resources to help meet the outcomes identified in your EHC plan. This may include services or other items including equipment which are needed to provide support.

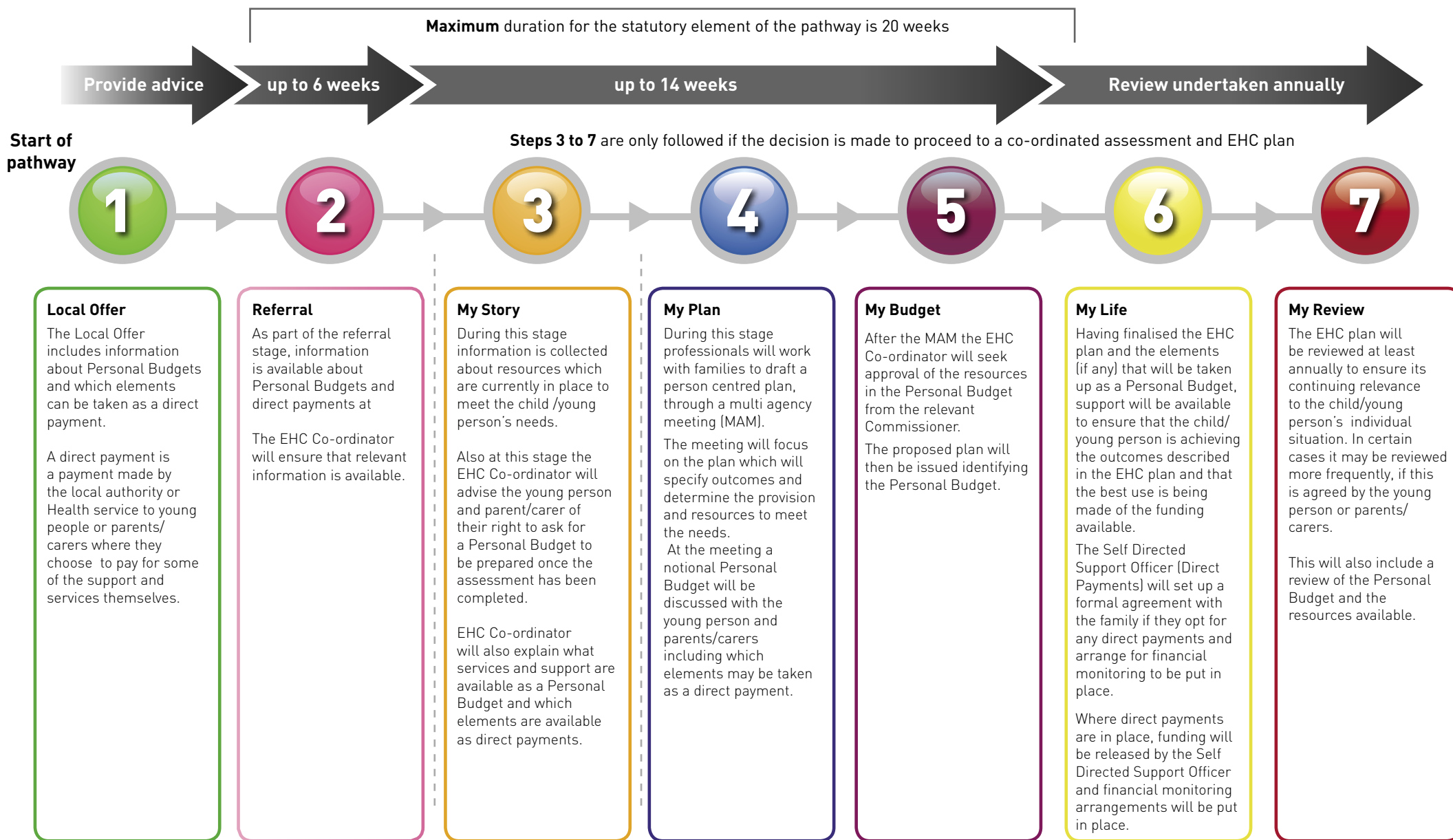
### How Do You Get a Personal Budget?

Your EHC Co-ordinator and other professionals involved will help by talking to you about the outcomes and the support that your child may need to help them reach their goals as they progress through the EHC plan pathway.

The EHC Co-ordinator, together with you and your child, will write an EHC plan that describes outcomes and goals. The plan will also describe how these can be achieved and the resources that are required to meet the outcomes. The EHC Co-ordinator will advise you on those resources which may be taken as a direct payment. **(See option 3 on page 5)**



# Nottinghamshire's EHC Personal Budget Pathway



## Managing Your Budget

We will work with you to help you decide how your Personal Budget is allocated and spent. There are four ways in which to do this:



### 1. Notional Budget

Funding is held by the Council and Health and used to provide services. This type of budget could be an option for a child or young person and their family who want more choice and control over their services and care, but who do not wish to manage a budget.



### 2. A Managed Budget

Children, young people and their families can be allocated an amount of money but it is looked after on their behalf by an individual or organisation. This could be an agreed independent organisation.

### Review

Your child's plan and Personal Budget will be reviewed with you to make sure that the outcomes and goals are being achieved. The EHC Co-ordinator will discuss with you what is working well and whether any parts of the plan need to be changed. The Co-ordinator will also check that the Personal Budget is meeting your outcomes for Education, Health and Social Care.



### 3. Direct Payment

A payment made by the Council or health service to young people or parents/carers to enable the family to choose and pay for some of the support and services. Young people over the age of 16 may be eligible to have a direct payment in their own right.



### 4. Mixed Package

A combination of budgets listed above may be chosen where young people or their family take direct payments for some of their support and also ask the Council or a third party to manage other services on their behalf.

## What is Available?

Personal Budgets are available for services provided by Education, Health and Care, as follows:



### 1. Education

This is a sum of money made available by the Council to support a child's special educational needs (SEN). This does not include the cost of a place at a school or post-16 establishment. The school/college involved will already have funding for learning support across the school but only children and young people with more complex learning support needs are likely to require a Personal Budget targeted on their SEN. In some circumstances a school or college/learning provider may choose to offer some funding towards a Personal Budget. For example funding may be provided to buy equipment or to arrange home to school transport.



### 2. Health

Children and young people who are supported by Continuing Healthcare funding have the right to request a Personal Health Budget. A Personal Health Budget refers to a budget that can be made available should a child or young person have a complex, long term and/or any life-limiting condition. A Personal Health Budget may be available to help with equipment costs or some health services.



### 3. Social Care

This refers to the budget that will be made available if a child or young person is assessed as needing additional and individual support at home and when out and about in the community. Children who are assessed as requiring support from Nottinghamshire's Children's Disability Service may be offered a Personal Budget. For example this could include a Personal Budget for short breaks or a befriending service. As a young person approaches adulthood they may be eligible for assessment by Adult Social Services, so that a smooth transition from children's to adult services can be organised.

The personal social care budget in adulthood may be different from the budget that was available previously. In all cases, a Personal Budget is based on an assessment of need and the support required to meet the child or young person's outcomes. This means that the amount an individual receives will vary from person to person.

Nottinghamshire County Council and Health are continuing to develop a personalisation strategy, and are committed to adopting a Personal Budget approach for disabled children and young people and their families.

**If you want to know more about Personal Budgets you can contact:**

Alison Holloway 0115 977 4778  
SEND Policy and Provision

Paula Vyze 0115 977 2676  
Assessment and Commissioning  
Manager for Children  
and Young People

Sarah Mackintosh 0115 977 3692  
Adults Social Care Commissioner

Brokerage Duty Desk 01623 433226  
Children's Social Care

EHC Plan Assessment Team 0115 977 3779

Further information on Personal Budgets is available online at:

[www.personalhealthbudgets.england.nhs.uk](http://www.personalhealthbudgets.england.nhs.uk)

[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/caring/children/  
socialcarechildren/disabilityservice/directpayments/](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/caring/children/socialcarechildren/disabilityservice/directpayments/)

[www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/resources/pfa-resources/  
personalisation-and-personal-budgets](http://www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/resources/pfa-resources/personalisation-and-personal-budgets)

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