

Introducing personal budgets

A personal budget is one of the ways of giving you more choice and control about the way your child is supported.

Sometimes the money being spent on services can be freed up and used in different, more creative ways to meet the outcomes. It may mean that you can organise your own services and be given the money to do that.

The way your personal budget is spent will be agreed with you and set out in the EHC plan. Anything you use it for must meet the child or young person's assessed health, education and social care needs.

Some people may use their personal budget to buy the same service; others may use it on different support or other services. If you have an EHC plan, your Assessment and Review Officer (ARO) will discuss this with you so that we can agree what is best.

What is the 'local offer'?

As part of the reforms, all local authorities must develop a 'local offer' for young people and families of children with SEND.

The purpose of the local offer is to:

- Provide clear, comprehensive and accessible information about the support and opportunities that are available for all children and young people with SEND and their families (not just those who have an EHC plan); and
- Improve the services that are provided and make them more responsive to local needs and wishes.

We are involving children and young people with SEND, parents and carers, and service providers in the development and review of North Yorkshire's local offer.

You can view the local offer on the local authority website:

<http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/23542/SEND---local-offer>