



Personalisation and Personal Budgets

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What does success look like?

Personalisation and person-centred planning is a fundamental requirement to delivering effective support that leads to positive outcomes for young people with SEND as they prepare for adulthood.

The Section 19 principles in the Children and Families Act 2014 tell us that all children and young people with SEND should have the opportunity to:

- Share their views, wishes and feelings
- Be supported to participate as fully as possible in decision-making
- Be supported to achieve the best possible educational and other outcomes

In practice this means that they should feel listened to, that their views should be clearly reflected in their assessments and plans, and that they should be involved in meetings where decisions are being made, have choices and feel in control of their futures.

For those children and young people with Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans there is a right to request a Personal Budget. The idea of the Personal Budget is that it creates increased flexibility by enabling parent carers or young people to have greater control over their support and, where Personal Budgets are pooled across education, health and care, to develop more efficient and integrated support mechanisms that focus on outcomes and look at children and young people's lives holistically.

In order for Personal Budgets to be most effective they need to be considered alongside joint commissioning across education, health and care.

Aims

As part of the PfA demonstration sites, Cheshire West and Chester and Newcastle upon Tyne have

been developing their practice in relation to personalisation and Personal Budgets.

They worked with the PfA team to develop a Context, Mechanisms and Outcomes (CMO) map which identified key aims they planned to work towards:

- Outcome-led, evidence-based, person-centred Personal Budget provision, which is contributed to by staff across services as part of the 'day to day' offer/EHC plans
- Clear and effective processes for decision-making and delivery of Personal Budgets in education

Getting started

In each demonstration site, it was important to start out by mapping what was already happening and how it was working in relation to the aims specified.

This led to a range of activity across the areas:

- Identifying and developing a willingness to develop pooled budgets and a commitment to progress the work through:
 - Engagement of all stakeholders to ensure EHC plans and other plans are person-centred with personalised PfA outcomes for young people with SEND
 - A Personal Budgets workshop which highlighted the potential and promoted alignment of work streams
- Working with colleagues in social care who had:
 - A history of personalisation
 - Systems and structures in place to allocate resources

Overcoming the challenges

Although in each of the areas there was some existing work to build on, the cultural shift required to be genuinely person-centred with all children and young people with SEND has been slow. However, there are some examples of emerging practice and early evidence that the shift in thinking is starting to happen.

In order to achieve these aims, the Local Authorities (LAs) identified that:

- Health practitioners, education providers and professionals will need to develop knowledge, confidence and systems to deliver Personal Budgets and engage in meaningful discussions with children, young people and families
- Families and young people need to be engaged in the design and delivery of the new systems
- Joint discussions with education, social care, health, commissioning and finance are needed to produce a pathway for a pooled budget
- Clear leadership is required to ensure engagement and commitment across all agencies
- Information and visual Personal Budgets pathways should be co-produced and shared on the Local Offer and made available to young people and families
- Personal Budget processes need to be transparent and accessible in relation to how LAs decide on the amount of resource available

Making progress

The Local Authorities which focused on employment have been engaged in a wide range of work to improve opportunities and outcomes for young people.

Newcastle has a small number of post-16 education personal budgets (EPB) now in place. You can read more about 'Jack's story' and the

positive impact that an EPB has had on him and his family. He started the year in a very stressful situation at a specialist college where he was virtually unable to access the curriculum. The flexibility of the EPB has enabled him to excel in an alternative setting in his community and he is now progressing towards qualifications and a career as a music instructor. In addition the LA has saved a significant amount on the cost of a specialist college whilst ensuring that Jack's outcomes have improved. <http://www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/resources/stories/jacks-story-using-an-education-personal-budget>

Bath & North East Somerset has also shared an example of their work on personal budgets as part of their focus on EHC plans.

You can read 'Ben's story' here: <http://www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/resources/all-resources/learning-example-bens-story>

Tools and resources

Preparing for Adulthood Review Tools

<http://www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/resources/all-resources/the-preparing-for-adulthood-review>

Factsheet on personal budgets for post-16 providers and FE Colleges

<http://www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/resources/all-resources/factsheet-personal-budgets-for-post-16-provision-and-fe-colleges>

Joint Commissioning guidance

<http://www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/what-we-do/joint-commissioning/joint-commissioning-in-action>

Making it Personal - KIDS

<https://www.kids.org.uk/pages/search.aspx?q=personal%20budgets>

