



ISLINGTON

Children's Services

PERSONAL BUDGETS

Information for Parents, Carers and Professionals

Islington's Children's Services is using a new way of arranging support to ensure you have choice and flexibility in the options available to you.

Instead of telling you how you should be supported, you will be able to decide this as a family.

You will find out exactly how much money your child has to spend on meeting their assessed needs.

Together you will create a support plan that meets your needs and suits your lifestyle



www.islington.gov.uk/parentsofdisabledchildren

Some of the words we use in this leaflet are going to be new to you, so we have briefly explained them below.

Personal Budget

This is the money you get to pay for your child's support and other items in your support plan.

Your personal budget can be spent in a way that suits your child, as long as it's legal and doesn't present a risk to you, your child or those around you. It must also meet the needs and outcomes identified in your support plan, which is to be agreed with Children's Services.

The budget can be used for direct services or you can receive cash to purchase your own support.

A cash payment to you is known as **Direct Payment**

Needs

Are your requirements at the present moment in time, as identified via your child's assessment

Supported Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ)

This is a tool used to support your child's assessment and answers to the questions help decide on the level of support your child needs.

Resource Allocation System

This is used to translate the score from the SAQ into an indicative budget.

It is often called the "RAS".

Indicative Budget

An indicative budget is the first *estimate* of funding allocated to meet your child's needs to begin support planning

Support Plan

This is a document that identifies how your support needs will be met. This is drawn up following the assessment process between you and your Lead Professional. Other people important to you and your child can be involved too.

Outcomes

These are goals for the coming year set out in the support plan which will be measured via the review process

Resources Panel

Panel consists of managers from Health, Social Care and Education. The panel makes decisions about funding and agrees support plans

Review

This looks at whether the outcomes have been achieved from the support plan. Reviews are held once a year, but can be more frequent, if necessary.



Frequently Asked Questions about Personal Budgets

Will I still need to have an assessment?

Yes. We will ask you to think about what your child wants to do with their life, what their goals are and what outcomes you want to achieve for your child.



When I have a personal budget what can I buy?

Families use their budgets in lots of different ways including spending money on:

- Support workers
- Small adaptations and equipment
- Overnight stays
- Day trips
- Weekends away
- Supporting learning like; music lessons
- Supporting health like; swimming and dancing
- Transport costs

Is this just another way to save money?

No—personal budgets are a new way of allocating council money fairly. The council still has to make sure your child's assessed needs are being met. By giving you more choice and control over your child's support, we think that you will get better outcomes for your child and value for money.



What's the difference between a Personal Budget and a Direct Payment?

A Direct Payment is a cash payment made for social care by Islington Council.

A Personal Budget does not have to be a cash payment, but can instead be an arranged service, or a combination of both.

At present, only funds from Children's Social Care can be used to form a Personal Budget.

What help is available to manage personal budget?

Support is available at every step of the process. There are different ways to manage a personal budget without managing the money directly*



Who will do the assessment?

A social worker will work with you and your child and your family to carry out an assessment. As part of this you will complete a Supported Assessment Questionnaire with the social worker to help decide how much support your child needs. Other people who know you well can also contribute to this process and your child's plan

How can I find out more about Personal Budgets?

For more information please contact the Personalisation Team:

0207 527 7263



E-mail



selfdirectedsupport@islington.gov.uk

Browse our webpage for additional service information:

[www.islington.gov.uk/
parentsofdisabledchildren](http://www.islington.gov.uk/parentsofdisabledchildren)



Alternatively you can write to us at:



Islington Disabled Children's Services
Personalisation Team
Northern Health Centre
580 Holloway Road
Islington
London
N7 6LB

** There is a small charge for managed accounts which will come from the Personal Budget*

This is a simplified flowchart, detailing the process you would have to go through when applying for an Personal Budget.

STAGE 1: Resource Allocation System (RAS)

(This stage should take up to 42 working days, but could take longer, where situations are complex)

Step 1:

As part of your assessment you will complete a Supported Assessment Questionnaire with allocated social worker.



Step 2:

The information will be fed into the Resource Allocation System.



Step 3:

The Resource Allocation System will supply a first estimate of your Personal Budget.
This is called your indicative budget



Step 4:

Your indicative budget must be agreed by the Resource Panel.



STAGE2: Support Plan

(This stage should take up to 40 working days, but could take longer, where situations are complex)

Step 5:

Now you can start Support Planning to use the budget to meet your child's assessed needs in a way that makes sense to you.



Step 6:

The support plan must say how this will happen linked to the outcomes in the assessment



Step 7:

The Support Plan must be checked and signed off by The Resource panel.



STAGE 3: Putting the Plan into Action

Step 8:

You can decide how you want the personal budget to be managed. The important thing is the money works to provide good support for your child



Step 9:

Your case will be reviewed annually.

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