

WCC SEND Personal Budget Process for Children Ages 0-7

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Introduction

Warwickshire County Council is committed to supporting all disabled children and / or children with complex health needs and their families to have equal opportunities, to develop their potential and to be safe. The council is also committed to fulfilling our duty to provide families with a short break. Warwickshire has many opportunities for children under seven. The council provides some of the opportunities directly and the voluntary sector, education settings and the NHS provide more opportunities.

These opportunities include:

- Children's Centres
- Nursery and Playcentres
- School and after school clubs
- Childminding
- Community Nursing Service

The council will do all it can to support you to connect with opportunities for your child. We know that different workers in the council and voluntary sector can advise you about these opportunities. Where there is more than one worker involved we will discuss with you who is the 'key worker'. The 'key worker' is the main professional who will work with your family. This might be an Family Support Worker, Social Worker, Nurse or Nursery worker.

When the council staff meet you and your family we will work towards supporting you and your child to be included:

- In all opportunities available to all children (universal service)
- In services which are set up specifically to support disabled children and / or children with complex health needs. (targeted services)
- In community activities and opportunities (playgroups, nurseries etc.)

The council is committed to supporting families with babies and young children who have disabilities and / or complex health needs through seeking to include families and children in Warwickshire's learning and social life. You can see these opportunities in full at the Warwickshire Local Offer.

Funding to support the Universal Play Offer

For most children with disabilities and / or complex health needs the council, with our NHS and voluntary sector partners, can support families to get connected to the



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support they need. Every child age 3 has the right to 15 hours per week play delivered through nursery education. Some children with a disability and / or complex health need have the entitlement from age 2. The council will work with education and NHS staff to ensure that disabled children have access to these opportunities. Individual funding is sometimes also needed to ensure that the child has additional support at nursery so they can play with other children their age. A key worker will work with the family to work out what funding is required.

Personal Budgets and Direct Payments

In addition to the universal play offer some disabled children and or children with complex health needs and their families need more support because their family circumstances and / or the child's disability or complex health need means that they need a personal budget to provide short breaks. If, after an assessment of the child's needs, the council agrees to provide a personal budget a key worker will let the family know how much they can plan with.

The family would then work out a plan of how they would spend the funding to achieve the short breaks needed and support their children to stay safe, access equal opportunities and develop their potential. The plan would include whether the family wanted to receive this funding into their bank account (this is called a direct payment) or wanted the council to arrange their services for them (this is called a managed service). Once the plan is approved the funding is released and the support can be purchased.

Some issues the council considers when it makes funding allocations

Some families have complex needs and universal services, community opportunities, targeted services and the universal play offer at 3 or a school place at 5 are not sufficient for the family and the child to reach their potential. In some circumstances in addition to the council and NHS local offer of support families may need additional funding from the council. Where children have complex needs an assessment of the family's and child's needs will be undertaken. This assessment will help the council decide whether funding is required and how much should be allocated. The council will take the following information into consideration when deciding whether a personal budget should be allocated for a child under 7 and how much should be provided:

The child should meet the council's criteria for access to services and the following issues will be taken into account:

- The child has complex health needs that include intensive overnight support (for example, invasive technology and providing peg feeding though the night)
- The family has little or no support from extended family and friends

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- The family has additional caring responsibilities for relatives or family members other than the disabled child
- There are other children under five to also support
- There are very few children who have extremely complex disabilities and health conditions for which intensive intervention is constantly required and monitored.

We work with families to fund support which provides them with the necessary short breaks they need. Decisions around personal budgets are made by the Quality Assurance Panel following assessment.

What happens to children when they reach seven?

The lives of children under seven are changing rapidly and services are also changing. The best way for families with children under seven is to explore their support choices in discussion with their key worker. Funding may need to change up or down quickly to respond to changing circumstances.

When a child reaches seven their constant support needs are better known and this is a good time to offer an annual personal budget for those families who need continuous funding. This works well because the child has been in full time education for two years and child's needs can be understood at this point.

Funding Table for 0-7 (these issues are what the council considers when deciding upon funding and these are some of the reasons why funding offers may vary from family to family.

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Band	Issue	Annual Funding
Medium Support	<p>Unable to access Universal Services because of complex health need and or disability; or children displaying challenging behaviour related to their disability.</p> <p>Additional support required to safely access pre-school provision or activities in the school holidays.</p> <p>Parents who are caring for a child with a disability, complex health need or displaying challenging behaviour related to their diagnosis, require short breaks from their caring role.</p> <p>Unexpected family circumstance adds extra pressure on the main carer of children described in this section.</p> <p>Children already accessing resources provided by a NHS Children's Continuing Care Health Plan who also require short breaks</p>	£1131 - £2262
High Support	<p>All of the above in Some Support and: Where a child has a complex health need, or disability and has a technical dependency. Main Carer has other additional caring responsibilities e.g. multiple birth, pre-school children or partner with their own health needs. Exceptional family circumstances identifying the need for more frequent short breaks to prevent breakdown.</p>	£3016 - £4524
Exceptional Support	<p>All of the above and; Children with degenerative life limiting or at end of life stage conditions. Unable to access statutory educational setting even with additional support. In exceptional circumstances, services provided to prevent carer breakdown.</p>	£5655 - £7540

Note: Funding level will be based on assessed need within banding. The actual funding level will be determined by assessed need and confirmed by the Quality Assurance Panel

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Instruction to workers: Please complete form, fill in indicative budget and submit to panel with any additional evidence 1 week before panel

P Number:	Sex:	DOB:
Being Equal		
Achieving		
Being Safe		
Family		
Indicative Budget		

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Additional Evidence

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Panel Decision

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QAP Agreed Budget

Signed (Panel Chair):

Date:

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