**Educational Direct Payments**

**for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and/or Learning Difficulties**

Version 5.0

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# Introduction

This guide is for people who are interested in SEN Educational Direct Payments in Wiltshire

# What is an SEN Direct Payment?

A direct payment is a sum of money that is paid as an alternative to receiving a direct service. This is an alternative rather than an additional service and the amount of the payment will be based on the cost of the direct service. It can give you more choice about the way that you receive a service, but the payment will have to be used to achieve the agreed outcomes that the service would have achieved. An SEN Direct Payment can also be linked to existing or new Social Care Direct Payments to make a Personal Budget.

# Who can apply for an SEN Educational Direct Payment?

To receive Direct Payments you must have a Wiltshire Education Health Care Plan or a statement of special education needs. This can be a plan that is already in place or one that is being agreed. Not every child or young person with an Education, Health and Care Plan will be eligible for a personal education budget. This will depend on what level of funding is releasable over and above the core delegated funds for each setting.

In addition to this we are required to make sure that our resources are used efficiently and that there is no adverse impact on other services we provide for children and young people. This means that some services provided through contracts with providers will not be available to be released into a cash payment. Your SEND Lead Worker can discuss eligibility for releasable funding with you.

**What can you use an Educational** **SEN Direct Payment for?**

Monies must be used to meet the outcomes specified in the Education, Health and Care plan. Examples of what families in Wiltshire are currently using educational direct payments for include: educational resources e.g. ICT resources, pens, paper, on-line educational courses, employing tutors, educational activities, cost of exams, assistance with oil and petrol to enable parents/carers to transport children to school or educational trips.

**How can you apply for an Educational** **SEN Direct Payment?**

If you want to apply for an Educational SEN Direct Payment you should contact your named SEND Lead Worker who will work with you to draw up an outline plan of how any releasable funds can be used to meet the outcomes specified in the Education, Health and Care plan. The proposal can then be submitted for approval.

In addition, where the service or equipment is to be provided on the school premises, the proposal will also need to be agreed by your child’s school before the Local Authority can agree to fund special educational provision through a direct payment to the family.

# Making sure the educational direct payment is working

Your SEND Lead Worker will liaise with you to ensure that the direct payments are working in the way intended to meet your child’s needs as part of a formal review process.

# Further information

Further info can be found on the Wiltshire Local Offer website [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/local-offer](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/local-offer). Additional information includes the Personal Budgets Policy and further advice about the responsibilities of becoming an employer.

Contact Information:

For more information you can contact us on the following number:

01225 757985

Or email on:

statutorysen.service@wiltshire.gov.uk