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## Points of interest

- Personal health budgets are intended to give parents and carers greater ‘choice and control’ over decisions about health care for their child.
- Few parents and carers have opted to have a personal health budget and availability of personal health budgets for parents of disabled children with complex needs varies across the country.
- Parents and carers interviewed saw both the benefits and drawbacks of a personal health budget. Purchase of items, such as additional therapy or special equipment that parents perceived as potentially beneficial, may not be possible under current eligibility criteria.
- As pressure on public services takes effect, tighter restrictions on what can and cannot be purchased with a personal health care budget are likely.