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Further information
To see all resources in this pack and additional information from The PBS Academy, The Challenging Behaviour Foundation and The Early Intervention Project go to:

www.pbsacademy.org.uk
www.challengingbehaviour.org.uk
www.pavingtheway.works

¹ The PBS Coalition laid the foundation for the establishment of the PBS Academy and all materials are now published under the PBS Academy name.
Accessing Further PBS Support

Research has shown that family interactions have a direct impact on the wellbeing and behaviour of the individual with a learning disability. Best practice recommends the development of Positive Behavioural Support (PBS)² skills amongst all those who provide the person with support, families as well as professionals, in order to provide consistent support (Challenging Behaviour Foundation, 2014).

The PBS Competence Framework (PBS Coalition UK, 2015) suggests that family carers should be provided with information and support to develop an overview of PBS and an understanding of what to look for in a PBS service.

It says that family carers should receive coaching and support to implement a behaviour support plan and can benefit from training in person-centred planning, communication and where necessary, ethical physical intervention.

Statutory Organisations

If you have not been offered this support you could request it from the following:

- **Your Local Authority**

  If you are supporting an adult you can request a Carer’s Assessment and explain your need for PBS skills as part of the assessment process.

  If your child is under 18 you have a right (brought in by the Children and Families Act 2014) to a parent carer’s needs assessment (PCNA), which is intended to lead to a better informed decision about the holistic package of support for disabled children and their families.

  You can request the relevant assessment from your Local Authority who must consider as part of the assessment your needs in relation to the care you are providing. If your relative has a learning disability and behaviours that challenge, especially if they are living at home, you can explain as part of the assessment how PBS skills would help you to understand and manage challenging behaviours.

- **Your local NHS Service for People with Learning Disabilities**

  This may be through a Community Learning Disability Team or by asking for this type of support from a Behaviour Specialist or Clinical Psychologist.

  Your GP can help you access these services by making a referral.

- **Your relative’s School or Care provider**

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² Positive Behavioural Support is sometimes referred to as Positive Behaviour Support. The PBS Academy uses Positive Behavioural Support to ensure that the emphasis is not on specific behaviours but on a behavioural approach to understanding and working with challenging behaviour.
Training Providers

If local statutory agencies will not provide or fund coaching or training in Positive Behavioural Support, there are some independent courses available. Currently there is no scheme to regulate or accredit training courses or to properly recognise professionals qualified in PBS. This can mean that sometimes people claim to use PBS or to run a PBS training course, which may not actually meet the standards of the PBS Competence Framework.

PBS professionals offering training can come from a variety of backgrounds but should have some specific training and qualifications in PBS. In addition they should be appropriately registered with an independent regulatory body responsible for setting and maintaining standards of practice, e.g. Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC); Health Care Professionals Council (HCPC).

Some PBS professionals will also be registered with other regulatory organisations, e.g. Behavior Analyst Certification Board® (BACB®)

For further information, go to http://bacb.com/credentials/

We suggest that families use the questions/alarm bells in Resource 3 of this pack to test the quality of any support or training offered.

For further helpful information about PBS Professionals Qualifications and Training go to http://www.pbs4.org.uk/resources/

Whilst there are many PBS providers offering training, there are very few courses directly aimed at family carers. However, The Challenging Behaviour Foundation does run 2 or 3-day workshops for family carers or family carers alongside professionals. The courses are person-centred and practical. They teach skills rather than answers. Participants gain knowledge in Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) and learn how to analyse behaviour, understand why it happens and plan strategies to support the person to reduce the behaviour. Participants leave with the basis of a PBS plan for the person they support. Unfortunately these cannot be provided for free and the CBF has to charge for these courses in order to run them. Some Local Authorities have paid for these courses to be delivered to local families. Details can be found here http://www.challengingbehaviour.org.uk/workshops/pbs-workshops/pbs-workshops.html
Where to go to get help with funding for PBS Training

**Charities** - If you can find a suitable training course, you could seek funding from a charity that awards grants direct to families to support their caring responsibilities. Family carers who meet the eligibility criteria could try applying for a grant from the following national charities where you can show that training in PBS would support you in your caring role or improve the quality of life of your relative.

- The Family Fund [http://www.familyfund.org.uk](http://www.familyfund.org.uk) gives grants to families who are raising a disabled or seriously ill child aged 17 and under on a low income. The Family Fund uses it's own eligibility criteria.

To meet the Family Fund’s disability criteria, children and young people must have additional complex needs, or have a serious or life threatening illness and there must be evidence that the child or young person’s additional needs impact on a family’s choices and their opportunity to enjoy ordinary life. The degree of planning and support required to meet their needs must also be much greater than that usually required to meet the needs of children and young people. See more: [http://www.disability-grants.org/grants-for-families-general.html#sthash.KwjYoi3b.dpuf](http://www.disability-grants.org/grants-for-families-general.html#sthash.KwjYoi3b.dpuf)

- There are also local charities in each area, which may consider funding a PBS course to help you support your relative. Further information about grants for families caring for a disabled relative, including how to find local grant giving charities, can be found at [http://www.disability-grants.org/grants-uk.html](http://www.disability-grants.org/grants-uk.html)

**Skills for Care** - May also be able to offer family carers funding for PBS training. Possible sources of funding change frequently and “pots” of money are often made available for time-limited periods, with specific criteria attached to them. Applications can be made through Skills for Care for these different funding streams when available.

Families who employ their own care and support staff can also apply for funding from Skills for Care to cover the full cost of care related training for both themselves and their personal assistants. Skills for Care does not directly arrange training but can fund courses and qualifications that meets the learning needs of the individual employer and/or their personal assistant(s).

Visit [http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/Learning-development/Funding/Funding.aspx](http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/Learning-development/Funding/Funding.aspx) to find out what funding is currently available, along with eligibility criteria.

For more general information (not specifically for families) about buying and paying for PBS training go to: [http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/Documents/Topics/PBS/Mini-guide-to-Positive-behavioural-support-training.pdf](http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/Documents/Topics/PBS/Mini-guide-to-Positive-behavioural-support-training.pdf)