

Direct Payments

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What are Direct Payments and how do they help?

Direct Payments is money given to you so that you can buy the care and support that the Adult Social Care Service agrees you need and would normally arrange for you. For example, direct payments can help provide personal care in your home and support to do things outside.

Quotes from existing service users:

“I’m on direct payments. It’s absolutely brilliant, we have a life. I live now, before, I existed”. (By an elderly lady who is disabled)

“Direct Payments is working very well for me. I wanted each carer to get to know my mum, get to know her requirements and so be better carers”. (By elderly lady’s daughter)

“I received direct payments to help me get as independent as I can and reach my full potential in my home and in the community”.

How does it work?

Most disabled people are able to manage their lives independently, some people need help. The level of support needed is assessed by the Adult Social Care Service to determine the eligibility of the disabled person or carer and to see if the payments will provide the support they need. They also agree the amount of money needed to support the care plan.

Direct payments is **not** an all or nothing choice and may be used to pay for some needs whilst other services are arranged by the Adult Social Care Service.

The money can be used to pay a personal assistant, organisation such as day care service, or employ your own staff. This gives you more choice and control but requires more responsibility, such as tax, national insurance, and managing staff.

Quotes from existing service users:

“With direct payments it’s great because I get the money into my bank account”.

“You can do what you want within reason with the money providing it’s paid to these people”.

“There’s help from the County Council with the payroll and they help you to employ workers”.

“It’s very daunting at the beginning but it is well worth persevering and sticking with it and it’s very simple once you’ve got the hang of it”.

“I wouldn’t want to sacrifice the control I have for anything however much paperwork it took”.

How do I apply for Direct Payments?

To enquire about Direct Payments, you can contact your [local Adult Social Care Service office](#) or fill in the online form. If you are entitled to help, a social care worker will assist you in filling in the application forms and calculate how much payment you will get.

Direct Payments support service help you to plan your care and advise on how to arrange your support. If you are in doubt about managing your own care, you can ask someone you trust to help you.

Direct Payments could help you to live a more independent life.

Further information:

[What are Direct Payments](#)

[Who Can Get Direct Payments?](#)

[Who can be paid and what services can be provided?](#)

[Applying for Direct Payments](#)

[Managing Direct Payments](#)

[More Information](#)

[Online Enquiry Form](#)