



Direct Payments Factsheet – Carers

Can Carers receive direct payments?

If you are eligible for social care support from the Council you can choose to have direct payments so that you can organise and buy services yourself instead of the council arranging services for you. Carers can receive direct payments instead of receiving Carers' services.

Why would I want direct payments?

Direct payments allow you to make more of the decisions that affect your life. You can decide how your support needs are met. You can make arrangements directly so that any staff you employ report directly to you. If you use an agency, the agency deals with you, not the council.

How could I get direct payments?

To get direct payments as a Carer you need first to have a Carer's Assessment. You can request an assessment by contacting the Adults Social Care Team.

If the person you care for is in hospital, speak to a nurse and ask to be put in touch with a hospital social worker. If you are eligible for support because of all you do as a carer, your assessor will explain what the options are - this will include how direct payments could work for you.

Can Young Carers have direct payments?

If you are under 18 years old and are undertaking a substantial caring role for an adult, direct payments might be an option for you. You can request a Carer's Assessment by contacting the Carer Support Team.

What can direct payments be used for?

Direct payments must be used to meet the needs that have been agreed through your Carer's Needs Assessment so that you are supported in your caring role and helped to keep well and healthy.

Direct payments can be used to buy goods and services or to directly employ someone. There are some things you cannot use direct payments for:

- To pay yourself as a Carer for the care you provide.
- To employ someone who lives in the same household as you or in the household of the person you care for (unless the council agrees that this is necessary – please speak to your social worker)
- Services of an intimate nature (e.g. bathing) or respite care for the person you care for. If we agree following their assessment that they need such support,



they could have their own direct payments or have their services arranged by a social worker.

Will I need to pay anything myself?

The council does not charge for services for Carers. You will not be financially assessed.

Direct payments do not affect any benefits you may be receiving. However, they will affect the benefits of anybody you choose to employ.

Could the person I care for receive direct payments?

Most people who have social care support at home from the council receive direct payments:

- Older people who have been assessed as needing community care services.
- Disabled people aged 16 and over, including those with short as well as long term needs
- Parents of disabled children to help support the child.
- People receiving a direct payment on behalf of someone else who lacks capacity?

Sometimes a person who needs social care support is not able to make the necessary decisions about direct payments. This is described as lacking capacity. It is possible for someone to receive direct payments on their behalf and to use them to meet the person's needs. If you are the Carer of someone who would benefit from direct payments and either you or someone you know would be willing to act as the Authorised Person to receive the direct payments for them, please get in touch with the direct payments Support Team using the contact details at the end of this fact sheet.
