

Are there any restrictions?

You cannot use your Direct Payments to

- Buy health services
- Buy long term residential care or very frequent 'short break' care in a residential facility
- Pay household bills or other personal expenses
- Employ anyone living in your household who is closely related to you

The money is not income or a benefit and therefore it will not affect any benefits you may already receive.

You will be financially assessed to see if you need to make a contribution to the cost of any support you are entitled to.

You must be willing and able to manage the payments (with support if required) or have someone who is willing to manage them for you and whom the council has agreed is a suitable person to receive them on your behalf.

A small number of people are excluded from the right to have Direct Payments if they have been placed under certain conditions or requirements by the courts in relation to drug and/or alcohol dependencies.

To find out more

If you already receive care or support services from the council and have a social worker or care co-ordinator, speak to them about using Direct Payments for part or all of your support needs.

If you don't have a social worker or care co-ordinator please contact Social Care Direct, as you will need to have an assessment to find out if you are eligible for a Direct Payment.

Social Care Direct

Telephone: 0845 8 50 50 10

Fax: 0191 383 5752

Textphone: 01429 884124

Text messaging: 07786 027280

Email: scd@durham.gov.uk

More information about Direct Payments can be found at

www.durham.gov.uk/directpayments

Please ask us if you would like this document summarised in another language or format.

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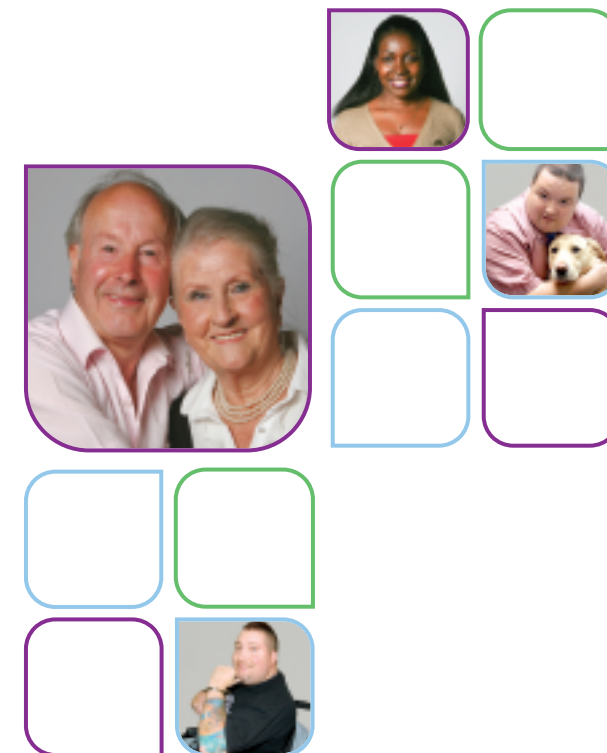
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Adults, Wellbeing and Health, Marketing and Information Team, 2010



Direct Payments

what you need to know



Your Life
Your Choice

care and support designed with you



What are Direct Payments?

A Direct Payment is money you receive from the council to buy your own care and support services, rather than having social care staff arrange them for you. This puts you in charge of your own care or support arrangements, giving you independence and flexibility over who provides your care and how and when it is delivered. The services that you buy with a Direct Payment must be safe, legal and meet your care needs. Social care staff will provide help and support as you decide whether a Direct Payment is for you.

Who can receive Direct Payments?

Most people who are eligible for social care services are also eligible for a Direct Payment including:

Older people and disabled people over the age of 16

- People with physical and/or sensory disabilities
- People with learning disabilities

- People with mental health issues
- Where a disabled person does not have the mental capacity to consent to a Direct Payment, an appointed suitable person can manage payments on their behalf

A person with parental responsibility for a disabled child aged under 16

- Parents and people with legal parental responsibility and who are not necessarily the child's parents

Carers over the age of 16

- Carers who have been assessed as needing services to support them in their caring roles and to maintain their own health and wellbeing

Why might Direct Payments work for me?

Having the money to pay for your own care and support means that you can arrange it so that it is flexible and individual to your needs. However, you can only purchase goods and services that are safe, legal and meet your needs and agreed outcomes as shown in your care and support plan.

Here are some examples of how you can use a Direct Payment

- To provide you with support to do household tasks or for your personal care in order to keep you safe, healthy and comfortable
- To help you access opportunities that may boost your employment potential or improve your wellbeing
- To help you to visit friends or family or to access a leisure or educational activity
- To buy a service from a care provider of your own choice or to directly employ someone to help you

Because everyone is different, you will decide how you want to use your Direct Payment and be able to show how the support you buy: -

- Is linked to what you want to achieve
- Will improve your life
- Will keep you healthy, safe and well
- Is cost effective in meeting your support needs

