



**Your Life
Your Choice**
care and support designed with you



Direct Payments

8. Transition

When the child/young person reaches the age of 14

When your child/young person reaches the age of 14 they will be allocated a social worker from the transitions team who will work with you and your child/young person to ensure the transition into adult's service is as smooth as possible. At this stage we will need to complete an audit of your Direct Payments to ensure any excess money is returned to children's services. Any outstanding or unused hours cannot be carried forward unless this is agreed by a social worker from children's services. As all surplus funds will be returned during the audit, an additional 4 weeks payment will be provided which is to remain in the account as a working balance.

When your child/young person reaches the age of 18

When your child/young person reaches 18, there will be a few necessary changes, which the Direct Payments Service will support you with. The allocated transitional social worker will also support you through transition and inform the Direct Payments Service if there are to be changes in the agreed Direct Payments amounts/services.

A financial assessment will be carried out to see if there will now be a contribution to make towards the agreed care and support. The Financial Assessment team will contact you to discuss the young person's finances. At this stage you can decide if you wish to continue with the Direct Payments. In some cases, the cost of the assessed contribution may be greater than the cost of the agreed services and in this case the Direct Payments will come to an end.

If Direct Payments continue a new Direct Payments Agreement will need to be completed. The person receiving Direct Payments may need to provide a signature.

The Direct Payments Service will discuss with you if there are any necessary changes in how the Direct Payments is currently being used.

If you employ someone using your Direct Payments, there may need to be a change to the terms and conditions of their contract. We will support you with this and provide you with the necessary amendment forms.

For any employment law advice, you should call the advice line connected to your insurance.

Fish Insurance – Peninsula - 0844 8922772

Premier Insurance – MSL – 0161 6032167

When your child/young person leaves the transitions service

An audit of Direct Payments will take place once the young person enters adult services and any excess funds will need to be returned to the transitions team. Any outstanding or unused hours cannot be carried forward unless this is agreed by a social worker from the transitions team.

Please see separate factsheet on 'Auditing your Direct Payments.'

If you would like any assistance or advice, please contact the Direct Payments Service.

Useful contacts:

Telephone: 03000 268 200

Email: directpayments@durham.gov.uk

www.durham.gov.uk/directpayments

Skills for Care: www.skillsforcare.org.uk

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

**directpayments@durham.gov.uk
03000 268 200**