

Examples of what Direct Payments can not be used for

Direct Payments can not be used 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
- Buy services directly provided by the Local Authority

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

If you are over 18 years 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 Direct Payments with support if required.

Those who lack capacity to consent to Direct Payments will need to have a suitable appointed person agreed by the council to receive the Direct Payments on their behalf. Direct Payments cannot normally be used to employ close relatives who live in the same household.

A small number of people may not be able to have Direct Payments and this would be discussed with your social worker or care coordinator.

To find out more

If you already receive care and support services from the council and have a social worker or care coordinator, 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 coordinator and think you need care and support, your first step should be to visit our Locate website.

The logo for 'locate' features the word in a blue, lowercase, sans-serif font. The letter 'o' is replaced by a blue location pin icon.

Care and support in County Durham

www.durhamlocate.org.uk

Social Care Direct / First Contact

Telephone: 03000 26 79 79

Text messaging: 07786 027 280

Email: scd@durham.gov.uk

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



Braille



Audio



Large print

altformat.cas@durham.gov.uk

03000 261 381

CAS17033 Children and Adults Services, CMI Team 2016



Your Life Your Choice

care and support designed with you



Direct Payments what you need to know





Who can receive Direct Payments?

Most people who are eligible for care and support services are also eligible for Direct Payments.

How do I know if I am eligible for care and support services?

If you live in County Durham and think you need care and support, your first step should be to visit our Locate website. Locate hosts a range of information and advice, including organisations to help you live as independently as you can.

If you find using the internet difficult, ask a carer, friend or relative to help you. You can use computers for free at your local library (booking advisable).

You can complete some simple questions in the 'My needs' feature on Locate about yourself and your situation which will help Locate guide you to useful information for help and support.

Depending on your responses you may be given the opportunity to answer some further questions to assess your needs.

The information that you provide will identify if you have any needs that are eligible for care and support arranged by the council. If you wish to apply for help with the cost you will need to complete a Financial Assessment.

What are Direct Payments?

Direct Payments may be paid to you from the council to buy 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 independence and flexibility over who provides your care and how and when it is delivered.

Why choose Direct Payments?

Having the money to pay for your own care and support services means you have more choice and control over who provides your care and support services and when they are provided. Goods and services purchased with Direct Payments must be safe and meet legal requirements. They must achieve the outcomes set out in your care and support plan which is agreed with your social worker/care coordinator.

Social care staff will provide help and support as you decide whether Direct Payments are for you.

Here are some examples of how you can use Direct Payments:

- To provide support to carry out 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 care and support services from a provider of your own choice or to directly employ someone to help you
- To employ someone to give additional support in your caring role if you have parental responsibility for a disabled child

What services and products are available to meet your needs?

Locate can help you find services and products you can buy with your Direct Payments. The easy to use database contains details of providers of care and support services, health groups and other community information. To access Locate visit www.durhamlocate.org.uk

