



# Your Life Your Choice

care and support designed with you

## Direct Payments Card

- The fast, flexible and convenient way to manage Direct Payments
- No need for a separate bank account
- Less paperwork and record keeping
- Pay in person using chip and PIN
- Set up Direct Debits and Standing Orders
- Pay for services by telephone or on the internet



# Managing your Direct Payments with a Direct Payments Card

Money allocated by the council to meet your care and support needs is called a Personal Budget. The council can give you Direct Payments so you can manage your Personal Budget yourself, paying for your own care and support services or employing your own staff.

**It's now even easier to manage Direct Payments by using a Direct Payments Card.**

## Why use a Direct Payments Card?

- Direct Payments Cards are a flexible, fast and convenient way to manage your Direct Payments
- You don't need to open a separate bank account
- A card can be issued in days
- You cannot go overdrawn or get into debt when using a Direct Payments Card
- Less paperwork and record keeping
- We make all the arrangements for issuing your card and for adding the money from your Personal Budget onto the card
- It's easy checking and managing balances on the internet or over the phone

## How do I get a Direct Payments Card?

Ask your social worker or care coordinator or to find out more visit [www.durham.gov.uk/directpayments](http://www.durham.gov.uk/directpayments)

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

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