

## Useful information

Direct Payments money is not income or a benefit and therefore it will not affect any benefits you 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.

## Examples of what Direct Payments cannot be used for

Direct Payments cannot be used for:

- 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

## 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.

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

Care and support in County Durham

[www.durhamlocate.org.uk](http://www.durhamlocate.org.uk)

## Social Care Direct / First Contact

**Telephone:** 03000 26 79 79

**Text messaging:** 07786 027 280

**Email:** [scd@durham.gov.uk](mailto:scd@durham.gov.uk)

The logo for 'County Durham Families Information Service' features the text in a blue, sans-serif font. Below the text is a colorful illustration of a family with a child in a wheelchair. The text 'Everything you need to know about' is written in a smaller font below the illustration.

family life

[www.countydurhamfamilies.info](http://www.countydurhamfamilies.info)

Local Offer

For 0-25 year olds with special educational needs and disabilities.

Durham County Council

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

 Braille  Audio  Large print

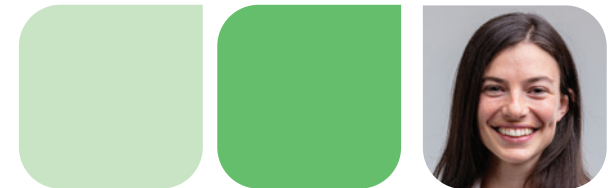
[directpayments@durham.gov.uk](mailto:directpayments@durham.gov.uk)

03000 268200



## Your Life Your Choice

care and support designed with you



## Direct Payments what you need to know





## What are Direct Payments?

Direct Payments may be paid to you from the council to buy care and support services, rather than social care staff arranging this for you.

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.

## 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 these and when they are provided.

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



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

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

If you are an adult and live in County Durham and think you need care and support, your first step should be to visit our Locate website to complete some simple questions in the 'My Needs' feature.

The information you provide will identify if you are eligible for care and support arranged by the council. If you are over 18 years old you will be financially assessed and may have to contribute towards the cost of any support you are entitled to.

You can also contact Social Care Direct on 03000 26 79 79

If you are applying for Direct Payments for a child, please contact First Contact Service on 03000 26 79 79

## How can I use Direct Payments?

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 assess 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 and Families Information Service 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 find out more visit:

### Locate

[www.durhamlocate.org.uk](http://www.durhamlocate.org.uk)

### Families Information Service

[www.countydurhamfamilies.info](http://www.countydurhamfamilies.info)

