

Self Directed Support Team

"Putting People First"

Factsheet

Direct Payments

What is a Direct Payment?

A Direct Payment is a cash amount paid to you so that you can arrange your own care and support services instead of the Local Authority doing it for you. It is about you having choice and control over the support or care you receive.

What can a Direct Payment be used for?

Direct Payments can be used to purchase services that will meet your **assessed needs** and **agreed Outcomes** as detailed in your **Support Plan** (*see notes*)

Examples may include:

- Personal assistance at home
- Short breaks (Respite care)
- Support to access activities/opportunities that meet agreed outcomes
- Services to support carers
- Equipment to help you remain in your own home.

What can't a Direct Payment be used for?

- Buying a service that is managed by the local authority.
- Paying for long term residential care.
- Buying in Health Care tasks normally provided by and paid for by the National Health Service.

You are not usually allowed to employ a close family member who lives with you to provide the assistance you need, except in very exceptional circumstances. This includes your partner or spouse.

If you have an idea for using a Direct Payment but are not sure if it is appropriate, speak to your social care worker.

What help is available to manage a Direct Payment?

The Self Directed Support Team is available to provide you with information and advice you may need.

You may appoint a **Representative** to assist you with the financial and care arrangements. This must be agreed with your social care worker.

You may want to set up a **Trust** to manage the Direct Payments. This can be done by getting several people together to form a group that can legally make the support arrangements you want. You will still be in control but the Trust will do the work.

You may make an agreement with a **Service Provider** to operate an **Individual Service Fund** for you. They manage the money and provide the services you request.

You may decide to use a Payroll Service to undertake some or all of your payroll obligations as an employer i.e. wage slips, tax and National Insurance contributions, end of year tax returns etc.

Is there a charge for Direct Payments?

You may be expected to make a contribution to your Direct Payment. This will depend on your particular circumstances and what the Direct Payment is for. The level of contribution will be the same as you would have been required to make should the local authority have provided the support directly.

How the Direct Payment Works

You receive a regular (or one off) amount of money from the local authority as specified in your Direct Payment Agreement.

You use the Direct Payment to purchase services, equipment, employ your own Personal Assistants or to support you with activities that meet your agreed Outcomes.

You will need to send financial returns to the local authority. This may include bank statements, receipts, invoices, copies of wage slips and an Expenditure form.

In choosing to receive a Direct Payment, instead of direct services, you accept full responsibility for arranging your own care and support services.

Before making a decision, information and advice is available from your Social Care Worker or the Self Directed Support Team.

Useful Notes

Assessed Needs

A Community Care Assessment or Self Assessment will identify the areas of your life in which you need support. These are your Assessed Needs.

Agreed Outcomes

Once your Needs have been identified you can decide what it is you want to achieve. These are your Agreed Outcomes.

Support Plan

The Support Plan will outline your Needs and describe how those Needs will be met to achieve your Agreed Outcomes.

Direct Payment Agreement

When you decide to take a Direct Payment you will need to sign an Agreement with the Local Authority. This will specify any terms and conditions that apply to the Direct Payment.

For more information:

Speak to the Direct Payments Support Worker

Main switchboard

Tel: 01572 722577 *ext.638*

Email: sds@rutland.gov.uk