



Direct Payments Scheme

What are Direct Payments?

Direct Payments are for people who have been assessed as needing help from social care services and who would like to arrange their own care and support, in agreement with BCP Council. Subject to an assessment, if you are eligible for social care services, Direct Payments can give you greater choice and control over the support you receive. You can have a mixture of arranged services and Direct Payments. If you do not want to receive Direct Payments, we can arrange services for you.

Who can have a Direct Payment?

- Disabled people of all ages who are willing and able to manage a Direct Payment, with help if necessary
- Carers aged 16 and over – to help them to continue in their caring role
- An 'authorised person'. We can arrange for someone to receive a Direct Payment on behalf of someone else who lacks capacity to consent, if it is in that person's best interests. This representative is known as an 'authorised person'. If you would like to know more about receiving Direct Payments on behalf of someone else, please contact that person's social care worker.

How much your Direct Payment will be

Your Direct Payment is a way of receiving your Personal Budget, which is the amount of money you have been assessed as requiring to meet your care needs. It will be made up of your contribution towards your Personal Budget and BCP Council's contribution towards your Personal Budget. Your Direct Payment is normally paid every four weeks in advance, into a current account set up solely for the Direct Payment or by using an agreed holding account service. Any contribution from you must be paid into the same account.

What you can use your Direct Payment for

To meet all agreed outcomes in your Support Plan. This may include meeting social care needs such as:

- Personal care - employing your own staff or using a registered care agency of your choice
- Day opportunities (such as day activities or attendance at a day centre)
- Providing short-term care to enable your carer to have a short break or respite

Help to manage your Direct Payment

The Direct Payments Advice Service will provide support on all aspects of Direct Payments. Once set up, many people manage their own Direct Payment although you can get someone to help you manage the scheme whilst you remain in control of the way your care is provided.

Making sure your Direct Payment is working for you

After six weeks we will meet with you to ensure that your care needs are being met. The frequency of further reviews will also be agreed with you. You will need to keep evidence of how the Direct Payment has been used to meet your needs.

Other factsheets that may be relevant

- Personal Budgets and how your care will be arranged

Contact details

If you would like to find out more about this service please speak to your social care worker, contact the Poole Direct Payments Advice Service on 01202 261133 / text relay 18001 01202 261133 or the Help Desk on 01202 633902 / email sshelpdesk@bcpcouncil.gov.uk / website www.poole.gov.uk/DPAS. For more information about services please go to www.mylifemycare.com.

To request or download a copy of this factsheet:

Tel. 01202 633902 / email sshelpdesk@bcpcouncil.gov.uk
or download at www.poole.gov.uk/adultsocialcarefactsheets



We can give you help to read or understand this information:



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