



# Direct Payments

## What words mean...

Words in **bold** will be explained on the last page in the blue box.



## What are Direct Payments?

A Direct Payment is money from the council for people who are **eligible** for social care or support services.



Instead of the council arranging your care or support for you, you use a Direct Payment to arrange this for yourself.



This means that you manage the money for your care and support instead of the council.



It can give you more control and choice about things like:

- What happens to you
- How it happens
- When it happens.

## Who can have a Direct Payment?



Most people who have had an **assessment** and need social care support can have a Direct Payment.

You can have a Direct Payment if:

- You are over 16 years old
- You can manage the money or have someone who can help you to manage the money
- You want a Direct Payment.





The law says that some people cannot have a Direct Payment. This might be:



- Some people who are being treated for a mental health condition



- Someone who is being treated for problems with things like drugs and alcohol.



Your social worker will check what support you need and talk about whether you can have a Direct Payment.



## What can I use a Direct Payment for?

You can only use a Direct Payment for things that meet your social care needs. You could use it to pay for things like:



✓ Support to live in your own home



✓ Support to do different activities



✓ Support with things like washing and getting dressed



✓ To buy some types of equipment to help you be more independent.



You cannot use your Direct Payment to pay for things like:

✗ Care in a residential or nursing home



✗ Household bills



✗ A person who lives in the same house or flat as you to provide support to you



✗ services or equipment that health, education or housing should give to you



✗ Anything illegal.

## Do I have to use Direct Payments?



No, you could choose to:

- Have your social care services arranged for you by the council



- Take Direct Payments for some of your support needs and the council can arrange the rest



- Pay a company from your Direct Payment to manage it for you.

## What do I have to do if I get a Direct Payment?

When you get a Direct Payment there are some things you have to do.



You can only use the money to pay for the support the council has agreed that you need.



You will be give a prepaid card to receive your Direct Payment. You can then use this as well as a website to pay for your support or activity.



You need to a keep any receipts or invoices to show how you are using the money.



You need to plan and organise your support.



You need to choose and pay for staff if you decide to employ a **personal assistant**. You must follow the laws about how to do this.



If you decided to employ a personal assistant you can get support from a charity called Enham Trust. You can ask your social worker for more information.



If you decide to have a Direct Payment you will have a review within the first 6 months to make sure everything is okay and you are happy with it.

If you change your mind you can go back to having the council arrange your support for you by giving 4 weeks notice.

## **What support can I get to have a Direct Payment?**



If you need help to manage money you could get a family member or a friend to act on your behalf to help you.



You can speak to the council and they will tell you of other ways you could get support with your Direct Payment.



## **Will Direct Payments affect my benefits?**

No, Direct Payments will not affect your benefits.



## How much will I get?

The amount of money you get depends on the assessment of your needs and also how much money you might be able to pay towards your own support.



## I think Direct Payments are the right choice for me. What do I do now?

If you already have care and support arranged for you by the council phone us to let us know you are interested in having a Direct Payment.



If you think you need some care or support you need to have an assessment. To do this you can:



- complete the online self-assessment at [www.slough.gov.uk](http://www.slough.gov.uk)



- email [adultsocialcare@slough.gov.uk](mailto:adultsocialcare@slough.gov.uk) saying you would like an assessment



- Phone 01753 475111 and ask for an assessment.

## What words mean...

**Eligible** means that you have to need a certain amount of care and support for it be provided for you by the council.

**Assessment** is when you talk about the things that you find difficult or need help with, and the social worker decides what care or support you might need.

**Personal Assistant** is when you employ somebody to help you do things you find hard to do by yourself.

**Employer** is the person or company you work for. If you are an employer it means that someone works for you.