



Direct Payment

It's about choice

What is a Direct Payment?

Direct Payments is all about giving people who need care real choice about who provides that care, what they provide and when they provide it. It's available to most people who have been assessed as being in need of community care services. It's about choice. It's about quality of life. And it's about independence.

You must be willing and able to manage direct payments on your own, or with help from other people you know and trust. If you feel you would benefit from a Direct Payment but do not have the capacity to manage it yourself you can nominate someone to receive the funds and manage the direct payment on your behalf.

Adults

First, a social worker will visit you and talk to you about the type of help and support you need, and plan with you appropriate services. This is called an 'assessment'.

What is an assessment?

You can get direct payments if the outcome of your assessment is that you are eligible for services. The local Social Services will use the government's 'Fair Access to Care Services' guidance to work out your eligibility. If you are a carer, you can also get direct payments for services provided under the Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000.

If you are eligible, you can either ask the social worker to directly arrange the services or ask for a direct payment to arrange your own services, or a mix of the two.

Children

You can get direct payments if you or your disabled child are eligible for services following an assessment under the Children Act 1989.

How much help will I get?

Your local Social Services Direct Payments Team will support you every step of the way. By listening to you, they will help you to decide the best way to use your direct payments but, Community Life Choices can also offer other help to you:



Help with paperwork

You will have to keep a record of how you spend your direct payments, but the forms you will use have been designed to be clear and straight-forward. At Community Life Choices we are experienced in assisting you to maintain appropriate records for when your direct payment is audited.

Help to recruit Personal Assistants

Community Life Choices are the experts when it comes to finding you the right team of Personal Assistants. We can help you to advertise, interview, prepare a job description, take up references, and arrange for checks with the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

Payroll Service

If you employ a Personal Assistant, they may have to pay tax and National Insurance on their wages. At Community Life Choices we provide a dedicated and friendly payroll service. Our payroll service will work out any tax and national insurance for you, and send you a payslip for you to give out with their wages.

Employer and Public Liability Insurance

If you employ a team of Personal Assistants, you must have this insurance. Your local council will pay for it as part of your direct payment and at Community Life Choices we work closely with a range of insurance providers to get the best insurance package suitable to your needs and requirements.

Help to choose an agency

You can choose which care agency you like, but if you are unsure which to choose we can help because, at Community Life Choices we provide a fully managed support service. Through our complete managed service we take away any employment responsibilities, you still choose which team of Personal Assistant's you want to work for you but, we pay their wages and we are responsible for the employers and public liability insurances . As part of our fully managed service we also ensure you have regular review meetings to ensure your direct payment is working the very best for you.

Managed Accounts

Your direct payments money can be paid directly into a bank account that is managed by Community Life Choices on your behalf. We will check and pay your invoices, and provide you with regular statements. This service is especially designed for people who may have challenges managing the financial aspect of their direct payments. Our managed account technology enables you to have a special payment credit card that we empower you to manage appropriately.

Community Life Choices has established many services and support mechanisms which enable individuals to have greater choice and control from the community and marketplace in which they live. For further details on the support available please contact us to discuss your individual requirements.



www.communitylifechoices.co.uk

If you'd like more information about our support services, please contact us::

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If you require a copy of this leaflet in an alternative format please let us know.