

Direct payments

Direct payments are sums of money which we pay to people who have been assessed as needing help from social care instead of providing them with a service.

A direct payment is not the same as a Direct Debit.

» Why would I want a direct payment?

People use direct payments to arrange and pay for their own care and support services. Direct payments support people to live independently by giving you the freedom to make decisions about things that affect your life.

A direct payment gives you the flexibility to get the services that meet your needs. It gives you the choice, control and flexibility to get support when you want it, how you want it and from the provider you have chosen.

Direct payments do not affect any benefits you receive such as disability living allowance (DLA) or attendance allowance.

» Who can have a direct payment?

Anyone who has been assessed by a social worker or care manager as needing help and support can get a direct payment. This includes:

- older people (aged 65 or over)
- people with disabilities who are aged over 16
- unpaid carers aged 16 and over, including those with parental responsibility for a child with a disability

» How will I manage my direct payment?

Once your care manager is satisfied that a direct payment can meet your agreed support arrangements you can have as much or as little support as you choose in managing your payment. The type of help you can get includes:

- Information and guidance to help you decide on and arrange support to suit your needs
- Interviewing and employing carers and personal assistants

- A payroll service which can work out a personal assistant's wages, tax and national insurance (or support you to do this yourself)
- Information to help you choose a care agency, if you choose to use one

If you prefer you can choose someone to hold your direct payment on your behalf. This could be a family member, a friend or one of our direct payment support services. Your care manager will be able to tell you more about these support services.

If you choose someone to hold your direct payment for you they will be responsible for making the payments to the employee or agency you have chosen.

» More information

For more information contact your **care manager**. Your care manager is the social worker, occupational therapist or other professional involved in your care. If you do not have a care manager or are not sure who they are, contact our adult social care duty team:



Telephone: 01429 523872



Textphone/minicom: 01429 284130



e-mail socialcare@hartlepool.gov.uk

» About this factsheet

This factsheet tells you about protecting vulnerable adults from abuse. We issued this factsheet in July 2011. We will check the information is up to date in July 2012.

» Other useful factsheets

Title

Reference

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| ■ What we do | Factsheet 02 |
| ■ Getting help from us | Factsheet 03 |



You can download all of our factsheets from www.hartlepool.gov.uk/factsheets
 If you do not have access to the internet you can request factsheets from our administration team on 01429 523745