

## Direct Payments

[www.hartlepool.gov.uk](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk)

October 2015

### What is a Direct Payment?

Families now have the opportunity to have more control over the support their child receives. If your child is assessed as needing services from Child and Adult Services at Hartlepool Borough Council, you can choose to receive the money to buy those services yourself. Using a Direct Payment gives you the flexibility to decide who is going to provide a service and to arrange how and when any service is provided.

### What can I use Direct Payments for?

The money is for you to use to pay for the services which will meet the needs of your child. It allows you to buy the care your child needs instead of having services organised for them. A Direct Payment can be used for:

- Getting help with your child's personal care, for example bathing, dressing, eating or helping look after them overnight
- Helping your child use leisure and educational facilities
- Help with household tasks to free up your time to look after your child
- A place at a day nursery or after-school care

A Direct Payment CANNOT be used for residential care.

### How can I get a Direct Payment?

You must contact us to have your child's care needs assessed. If we agree that services are needed, we will complete a 'care plan' which outlines the support required. At this point you, if appropriate, will be offered a Direct Payment.

### How do I manage my Direct Payment?

Once your social worker is satisfied that a direct payment can meet your child's agreed support needs you can have as much or as little support as you choose in managing your payment.

You may decide to use Penderels Trust who are commissioned by Hartlepool Council to support Direct Payments. The support available from them includes:

- Support when recruiting a personal assistant (if you require one)
- Guidance on all aspects of becoming a good employer including legal obligations
- Support with choosing and using a care agency
- Help with money management and keeping accurate records
- Payroll services

For more information and advice on Penderels Trust, please contact them on: [01429 268659](tel:01429 268659) or email: [Hartlepool@penderelstrust.org.uk](mailto:Hartlepool@penderelstrust.org.uk)

### Our opening times:

We open at 8:30am every weekday. We close at 5:00pm Monday to Thursday. On Fridays, we close at 4:30pm.

### Contact us:



Telephone: 01429 284284



Textphone: 01429 284130



Email: [fcsh@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:fcsh@hartlepool.gov.uk)



Post: Child and Adult Services  
Hartlepool Borough Council  
Civic Centre  
Victoria Road  
Hartlepool  
TS24 8AY

## About this factsheet

This factsheet provides information about Direct Payments. We issued this factsheet in October 2015. We will check the information is up to date in October 2017.



You can download all of our factsheets and booklets from our website,  
[www.hartlepool.gov.uk/childrensfactsheets](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/childrensfactsheets)