

## Direct Payments

A Direct Payment is money which Adult and Community Based Services pays into a person's bank account for them to spend on a specific item or activity identified in their support plan.

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

### » Why would I want a Direct Payment?

You can use a Direct Payment to arrange and pay for your own care and support. Direct Payments can support you 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), Personal Independence Payments or Attendance Allowance.

### » Who can have a Direct Payment?

Anyone who has been assessed by a social worker or care manager as meeting the Adult Social Care eligibility criteria 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) ([www.penderelstrust.org.uk](http://www.penderelstrust.org.uk))
- Information to help you choose a care agency, if you choose to use one.

If you prefer you can choose someone to manage your Direct Payment account on your behalf. This could be a family member, a friend or our Direct Payment support service. Your Care Manager will be able to tell you more about this support service or options available to you (this does not include making decisions about employment or commissioning issues).

However, if a person lacks the capacity to manage a Direct Payment such as managing employment issues or arranging support, a trusted "Authorised Person" can do this on behalf of the person eligible for the Direct Payment.

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.

Further information from Skills for Care in relation to Direct Payments

<http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/Recruitment-retention/Employing-your-own-care-and-support/Employing-your-own-care-and-support.aspx>

## » Contact us

You can contact the Early Intervention Team by letter, telephone, text, or email. If English is not your first language, we can provide a translation service.

## » Our opening times

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



Telephone: 01429 523390



Text Service: 60006 (start your text with HBC)



E-mail: [dutyteam@hartlepool.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:dutyteam@hartlepool.gcsx.gov.uk)



Postal address: Adult and Community Based Services  
Hartlepool Borough Council  
Civic Centre  
Victoria Road  
Hartlepool  
TS24 8AY

## » About this factsheet

This factsheet tells you about Direct Payments. We issued this factsheet in July 2011 and updated it in April 2018. We will check the information is up to date in April 2020.



You can download all of our factsheets from  
[www.hartlepool.gov.uk/factsheetsandpublications](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/factsheetsandpublications)