

Direct Payments

Factsheet – Getting Started

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

What are Direct Payments?

You may have been offered a Personal Budget by the Council and are considering taking a direct payment. Direct Payments are one way that you can manage your Personal Budget.

A Direct Payment is a cash amount based on the amount agreed in your Personal Budget so that you can arrange and pay for social care support instead of the Council arranging services for you.

Direct Payments offer greater flexibility, choice, and control than support arranged for you by the Council.

It is your choice whether you want to have Direct Payments. The Council must be satisfied that you understand what it involves and that the way you choose to use the cash will meet your needs and achieve the agreed outcomes. The way you use the payments must be legal and keep you safe and well.

For example, you may want to employ your own Personal Assistant, providing you with the support at the times you want. Alternatively, you may decide you want to buy support from a care agency. Or you may want to find an alternative to the types of respite support the Council could arrange for you.

Direct Payments can be used in a wide range of creative ways if it is safe and legal to do so. There are some exceptions which your Council will explain to you on request.

Who can have Direct Payments?

You can only have a Direct Payment once you have had an assessment and the Council agrees that you are eligible for certain social care services.

You can receive Direct Payments if you are:

- A disabled person aged 16 years and above.
- A parent of (or have parental responsibility for) disabled children, to pay for services for the family.
- A carer aged 16 years and above, for services to meet the carers own assessed needs
- A disabled person with parental responsibilities for a child, for services to support their parenting role; or
- An appointed Authorised Person for someone who lacks capacity (the Council must agree who the Authorised Person is)

In most cases the Council **must** offer Direct Payments but for some people who are subject to some mental health legislation or aspects of criminal justice legislation the Council can decide whether or not to offer Direct Payments. Please ask the Council if you need more information about this.

Some people who are placed under certain conditions by the courts in relation to drug/alcohol dependencies are excluded from receiving direct payments.

More Information

We have several brief factsheets that will give you more information about Direct Payments:

Getting Started

Acting as an Authorised Person

Keeping Safe

What to do if things go wrong

Frequently Asked Questions

Recruiting Staff

Employing a Personal Assistant Employing

People Legally

Being a Good Employer

Using an Agency

Insurance

Carers' Direct Payments

Training Personal Assistants

What to do when someone who is receiving a Direct Payment dies

Managing the Money

Direct Payments Card Accounts

Direct Payments Administrative Review

Direct Payments for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs

Who to contact

Barrie Bookkeeping - Tel: 01902 912895
Email: DP@barriebookkeeping.co.uk

Adult Social Care - Tel: 01902 551199

Disabled Children and
Young Person's Team - Tel: 01902 550911

Direct Payments Team
Civic Centre - Tel: 01902 551294 (Option 6)
St Peter's Square
Wolverhampton
WV1 1RT
Email: Direct.payments@wolverhampton.gov.uk

wolverhampton.gov.uk/adultsocialcare

Direct Payments Team