



Adult Social Care

DIRECT PAYMENTS

A Direct Payment is a payment that allows you to organise your care services, enabling you to choose the services that are appropriate to your needs as set out in your Support Plan. Some people use the money to buy care from an agency whilst others will directly employ their own staff.

The aim of a Direct Payment is to give more choice in how services are provided to individuals who are assessed as eligible for Social Care support.

By giving the individuals money in place of social care services people have a greater choice and control over their lives, and are able to make their own decisions over how their care is delivered.

DIRECT PAYMENT THE FACTS:

- ✓ **An assessment by a social worker will be required to see if you meet criteria for Support**
- ✓ **A direct payment is money from the council to help you pay for this support**
- ✓ **Anybody over the age of 16 who meets criteria can receive a direct payment or to people with parental responsibility**
- ✓ **You can use your direct payment to employ your own personal assistant or use an agency, the Direct Payments Team will provide some assistance and guidance when doing this**
- ✓ **Direct payments can increase your choice, control and autonomy**

DIRECT PAYMENT – YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

- ✓ **Only spend your allocated Direct Payment on what has been agreed in your support plan**
- ✓ **Provide insurance cover if you chose to employ a personal assistant with written evidence of the policy**
- ✓ **Comply with employment law if you decide to employ a personal assistant directly**
- ✓ **Take responsibility to make appropriate arrangements to meet your care needs**
- ✓ **To provide all essential monitoring documentation to the Council i.e relevant bank statements**

DIRECT PAYMENT - USE

- ✓ **Do not spend your direct payment on anything that is not agreed in your support plan**

Who can receive a Direct Payment?

If an assessment by Adult or Children's Social Care shows that care services should be provided, you or the person you are looking after, have a right to ask for a direct payment instead of having the service arranged by Sefton Council.

Direct payments can be made to any older or disabled person age 16 or over, to people with parental responsibility for disabled children, and carers aged 16 and over in respect of carers services.

They can also be made to people with mental health problems or long-term illness.

We will work with you and your relatives and friends about what and how you would like your support arranged. This will include the different ways you can spend your direct payment and will be written down to create your support plan.

How can Direct Payments be used?

Direct payments can only be spent on your identified needs that have been agreed within your support plan. You can make arrangements to employ someone directly or purchase support from an agency of your choice.

You can also have a combination of Direct Payments and services arranged or provided by Social Care Services.

You cannot spend the money from your direct payments account on anything other than meeting your care/support needs as set out in your support plan.

How would I arrange my own services?

The Direct Payments Team provides information, advice and practical support on all aspects of the Direct Payments scheme, including: -

- How Direct Payments could help you.
- Support to set up and manage your Direct Payment
- Assistance with staff recruitment
- Payroll service
- Information on agencies
- Assistance with completion of financial paperwork and records.

How do I apply for a Direct Payment?

If you have not had an assessment but feel you may be eligible for a service or you have been assessed as needing a service and would like a direct payment to purchase your own care you should contact Sefton Council on **0345 140 0845** - an operator will take some brief details so that you can receive a call back from either Adult or Children's Social Care Team.

What is the Direct Payment Partnership Service?

Sefton Carers Centre is working in partnership with Sefton Council to promote independent living through the Direct Payments Scheme. The Direct Payments Team are based at Sefton Carers Centre, 27-37 South Road, Waterloo L22 5RF and offer a range of services that enable people to develop the knowledge and skills they need to manage a Direct Payment. If you would like more information on Direct Payments, please contact the Direct Payments Team at Sefton Carers Centre. Tel: 0151 288 6060.