

Direct Payments

Direct Payments are a government initiative designed to give people more freedom with their care, so from 2002, many Social Services will need to offer the option of a Direct Payment to people who receive a social care service.

Following an assessment by Social Services the person receiving the payments can use the money for different types of services including:

- Personal care and support
- Day care (including domestic help)
- 'Mixed' packages of support
- Short term residential care
- Items of equipment

They can also be used for employing a 'personal assistant', or arranging care from an agency. Your local Social Services team will be able to tell you more about Direct Payments.

There are many benefits to Direct Payments – they allow a greater level of flexibility and freedom for the person who needs the care. By employing a Care & Support Worker directly, there is greater choice as to whom the person has looking after them; what times they come; what community they come from.

People who are eligible to receive a Direct Payment, instead of their 'usual' support are:

- Older People who need social care services
- People with physical disability who are over 16
- People with a Learning Disability who are over 16
- Disabled Parents would receive payments for the needs of their children (non educational)
- Carers over 16

Direct Payments gives such a variety of choices that in some cases the chosen Care & Support Workers may be someone that the person already knows, or a relative who does not live with them.

The greater choice however may come with greater responsibility. Social Services departments provide care managers or advocates to help someone recruit a personal assistant.

Carewatch can assist people who receive a Direct Payment, either by using the Direct Payment to purchase your care from Carewatch or by employing a personal assistant on your behalf

