

Direct Payments

Direct Payments are a Government initiative designed to give people the freedom to purchase their own care and support, so since 2002 all Social Services departments offer the option of a Direct Payment to people who receive a social care and support service.

Following an assessment by their local Social Services the person receiving the direct payments can use the money for different types of services. These include:

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

Direct Payments can also be used for employing a 'personal assistant' or arranging care from a private agency. Your local Social Services team will be able to advise you further.

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

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

- 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

How can we help?

Direct Payments allow such a variety of choice that in some cases the chosen personal assistant may even be someone that the person already knows, or a relative who does not live with them.

Greater choice, however, may come with greater employment 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 it to purchase your care and support directly from Carewatch or by employing a personal assistant on your behalf.

