

The Newcastle Guide to Direct Payments- Easy Read Version

What is a direct payment?



A direct payment is when money is given to you by Newcastle Council to have control and pay for the support you need.



A direct payment gives you the money to pay for the things in your support plan.

The council will work with you to make your support plan.



A direct payment gives you more choice and control over how you spend your money.

You must spend your money on the things agreed in your support plan.

Some of the different types of things you can use your direct payment for



A Personal Assistant who can support you to do the things you want to do in your life.



Help you with your personal care when you go to work.



Doing different leisure activities.



Having support to live in your own home.



Going to college or doing a course.

Some things you **cannot use your direct payment for**



Household bills.



Rent.



Residential care.



Things that the NHS would pay for.



Pay a family member to look after you.



Lots of things you would buy for your house.



Cigarettes and alcohol.



Kitchen appliances.

Who can get a direct payment?



People who need care from the council are likely to be able to get a direct payment.



To get a direct payment you, or somebody who is acting on your behalf must:

- Understand what a direct payment is
- Know how to look after the money

How to get a direct payment



You or somebody looking after you can ask the council about direct payments and having a support plan.



The council will work with you to decide if you can have a direct payment.



If you choose to have a direct payment your support plan will be written with you.

The things that need to be done when you get a direct payment



You, or the person who looks after you, must show that the direct payment money can be looked after properly.



If you have a Personal Assistant, you must show that you can manage them.



There are lots of different people and organisations who can help you to manage your direct payment.

Who can help you with your direct payment?



Family and friends.



The council's direct payment support service is called Disability North. They help you with:

- Managing the money
- Managing your Personal Assistant



There are other services that can help you to pay your staff.

Disability North can help to find the best support for you.



You can talk to your social worker if you have one or phone the Community Health and Social Care Direct team on (0191) 278 8377.



You can get in touch with the council's direct payment support service at Disability North's website:

www.DisabilityNorth.org.uk

You can email them at

reception@disabilitynorth.org.uk

You can phone them on

0191 284 0480