

A Guide to Receiving Direct Payments

Introduction

This factsheet tells you about the Direct Payments Scheme. It explains what Direct Payments are, who is eligible for the scheme, how to use it and what support is available.

What is the Direct Payments Scheme ?

Once you have had an individual assessment that determines your well-being outcomes and you are eligible for care and/or support, you may choose to organise your services yourself rather than have the Council do this for you. 'Direct Payments' is a way you may be able to do this.

Direct Payments enables you to have choice and control with how your well-being outcomes can be achieved, in a way that may give you the opportunity to live as independently as possible.

With Direct Payments:

- You choose who provides you with the care and/or support you may require
- You are in control of when you receive your support and how that support meets your well-being outcomes

Social Services provide a payment directly to you, providing you are eligible to receive Direct Payments so that you can arrange and buy your own support

Who can receive Direct Payments ?

Councils must offer Direct Payments to anyone who had an individual assessment and are eligible for care and/or support from social care services.

Torfaen County Borough Council need to ensure that your well-being outcomes can be met in this way and that you are capable and able to manage the Direct Payments, either alone or with available help.

What are the benefits ?

- You choose how your care and/or support is met
- You can choose who provides the support
- You can receive care and/or support at a time that suits you
- You can have a mix of Direct Payments and social services if you wish
- You will receive help, training and support to manage the scheme

What can I use Direct Payments for ?

- Employing someone directly to support you (a Personal Assistant) Buying care from a private registered care agency
- Making your own arrangements instead of using Social Services day activities or respite care

You cannot use Direct Payments for health or housing services.

What are my responsibilities ?

You will be responsible for managing and administering the way that your Direct Payments are spent. This means that if you employ a Personal Assistant directly, you will be classed as their employer.

You will also have to keep auditable records of how the money is spent.

We will offer you support and training so that you are able to manage the scheme. The Independent Living Team can enable you to:

- Advertise for staff
- Write job descriptions
- Support with recruitment
- Registering with a payroll service

Will Direct Payments affect my benefits ?

No. Direct Payments do not affect your benefits at all and they are not classed as income for tax purposes. However, if you employ someone and they are on benefits, their benefits may be affected.

NB. Please note Direct Payments is not an additional benefit or form of income. Direct Payments can only be used on the care, support and/or assistance you have been assessed as requiring from Social Care Services.

Will I have to pay anything ?

If you receive Direct Payments you may be asked to make a contribution towards the cost of your care and support depending on your circumstances. This is the same as for other social care services and is calculated in accordance with the Social Services Charging Policy (factsheet available on request).

How do I find out more ?

If you are interested in finding out more about the Direct Payments Scheme, please contact your Social Worker/Care Manager if you have one, or the Independent Living Team

Independent Living Team

Address:

Independent Living Team
Social Care and Housing
Floor 5
Civic Centre
Pontypool, Torfaen
NP4 6YB

Email:

independentlivingteam@torfaen.gov.uk

Our contact details

If you need more help, please contact us.

Telephone: 01495 766220 or 01633 624176

E-mail:

socialcareCallTorfaen@torfaen.gov.uk

This factsheet can be made available in other languages and formats upon request. Please contact us in order to arrange this.