

Putting you in control



**Are you a user of the
Council's
care services?**



**Direct payments might
be just what you are
looking for!**



To find out more, read this leaflet.



Have you ever thought that you would like to organise and manage your own care?

People who use community care services often think how much better it would be if they could organise their own care. This means that they could ensure that the care they receive is given at the times they want and in the way that they choose.

Direct payments is a system that allows you to do just that.

Many people have already found that direct payments can add a whole new dimension of choice and independence to their lives.

If you are currently using Haringey's services or think you might need them in the near future, then direct payments could be for you. This leaflet tells you more about it.

What are direct payments?

Direct payments are for people who are entitled to care services from Haringey, such as home care. Instead of providing a service, we can give you the money. You can then use this money to buy the services yourself, in the way and at the times that suit you best. It allows you to decide who gives the care, and how and when they work with you. Direct payments mean that you are in charge.

Who can have direct payments?

Most people who qualify for care from social services are entitled to receive direct payments. Anyone who has been assessed as needing community care services by social services might be eligible. This includes:

- People with disabilities
- People with sensory impairment
- People with learning disabilities
- People with HIV/AIDS
- People with mental health problems
- Older people who need care
- Young disabled adults aged 16-17 years
- People with parental responsibility for a disabled child
- Carers of people needing care services.

If you are not a current service user but think you might be entitled to care services, you will need to be assessed before becoming eligible for direct payments.

Do I have to have direct payments?

No. If you prefer, you can continue to have care provided by social services. Alternatively, you can have a direct payment for part of your support and let social services arrange the rest of it.

Similarly, if you opt for direct payments and then decide it is not for you, you can change to directly provided services at any time.

What can I use a direct payment for?

You can use your direct payments to pay for any care you have been assessed as needing.

Direct payments mean that you have a lot more choice about the kind of care you get. There are many ways you can do this. For example:

- You can employ your own support worker or personal assistant to care for you at home
- You can obtain care from an agency
- You can use it for day care or for your personal assistant to assist you with activities during the day
- You can use it for a short break or for day care
- You can buy equipment that would usually be provided by social services.

There are many other ways in which your payments can be used. Your social worker or care manager will be able to discuss this with you.

One of the great things about direct payments is that you have flexibility. So as your needs change, you can choose how to use the money in a variety of ways to make sure your needs are met.

Is there anything I cannot use a direct payment for?

Direct payments can be used for almost any care need, but there are some exceptions. Direct payments cannot be used for:

- Permanent residential or nursing care
- Employment of a close relative or someone living in the same household.

Direct payments are not a benefit, and are not a part of the benefits system. The payments are given in order to

obtain care, and cannot be spent on anything else. Social services have a duty to ensure that payments are being used for their intended purpose and are entitled to recover any money that is not spent on care.

Please note that the local authority's direct payments system outlined in this leaflet has no connection whatsoever with the scheme run by the Department for Work and Pensions where benefits are paid directly into claimants' bank accounts.

How does it work?

We will work out how much it would cost to pay for services to meet your care needs, as assessed by your social worker or care manager. When we have done that we will send you the money every month in advance to pay for this. The money will need to go into a separate bank or building society account opened for this purpose.

You will then be in charge of organising your care and paying for it. This means that you will be responsible for things such as:

- Recruiting and employing staff
- Organising and managing your staff's day-to-day tasks
- Keeping financial records and making returns to the council.

At first sight, these responsibilities may seem a little daunting. Don't worry! Haringey social services can put you in touch with an organisation who will provide you with support for all these tasks. They will visit and discuss all these issues and work out with you what you

need. They can provide advice and assistance with recruiting and employing staff, as well as providing a payroll service.

The point of direct payments is to give you the freedom and independence you need, not to burden you with paperwork and bureaucracy!

Do I have to pay anything?

Haringey Council has a charging policy and all users of community care services may have to pay a contribution towards the cost of their care. This applies whether you opt to receive direct payments or receive support via social services. Any contribution you are asked to pay will be based on your income and savings. Your social worker or care manager will discuss this with you. There is also a separate leaflet on community care charges.

Where can I find out more about direct payments?

If you think direct payments might be for you, or if you would just like to find out a bit more, you can discuss this with your social worker or care manager. You can also contact:

Direct Payments Officer
40 Cumberland Road
Wood Green
London N22 7SG
Phone: 020 8489 3153
Fax: 020 8489 3032
Email: Direct.Payment@haringey.gov.uk

You can get advice on assessments for direct payments from:

Mental Health

Kate Marsden Unit
St Ann's Hospital
St Ann's Road
London N15 3TH
Phone: 020 8442 6358

Learning Disabilities

Unit 5, St George's Estate
White Hart Lane
Wood Green
London N22 5QL
Phone: 020 8489 1398

Tynemouth Road
Health Centre
24 Tynemouth Road
London N15 4RH
Phone: 020 8275 4089

Older People

40 Cumberland Road
Wood Green
London N22 7SG
Phone: 020 8489 1400

Canning Crescent Health
Centre
276-292 High Road
Wood Green
Wood Green
London N22 8JT
Phone: 020 8829 1000

Physical Disabilities

40 Cumberland Road
Wood Green
London N22 7SG
Phone: 020 8489 3092

Shqip

Nëse dëshironi ta keni këtë në gjuhën tuaj, ju lutemi vendosni shenjën ✓ në kuti, shënioni emrin dhe adresën tuaj dhe me postë falas në adresën e niseni mëposhtme.

Kurdî Kurmancî

Hek hun vêya bi zimanê xwe dixwazin, ji kerema xwe qutikê îşaret bikin, nav û navnîşana xwe binivîsin û ji navnîşana jêrîn re bi posta bêpere bişînin.

বাংলা

আপনি যদি এটা আপনার নিজের ভাষায় পেতে চান তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে সঠিক বাক্সে টিক চিহ্ন দিন, আপনার নাম ও ঠিকানা লিখুন এবং নিচের বিনা ডাকমাশুলের ঠিকানায় পাঠিয়ে দিন।

Soomaali

Haddii aad qoraalkan ku rabto luuqadaada, fadlan sax mari sanduukha, kuna soo dir boostada hoose ee lacag kusoo buuxi magaca iyo ciwaankaaga, la'aanta ah.

Français

Pour recevoir ces informations dans votre langue, veuillez inscrire votre nom et adresse et renvoyer ce formulaire à l'adresse ci-dessous. Le port est payé.

Türkçe

Bu kitapçığın Türkçesini xwe istiyorsanız lütfen kutuyuutikê îşaretleyip, adınızı, soyadınızı ve adresinizi yazarak posta pulu yapıştırmadan aşağıdaki adrese gönderin.

Please tell us if you would like a copy of this leaflet in another language that is not listed above or in any of the following formats, and send the form to the Freepost address below.

- In large print On audio tape In Braille
- In another language, please state: _____



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Address: _____

_____ Email: _____

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