

# Direct Payments Events

## June 2019: Direct Payments

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# Introductions and aims of the series of Sessions

To look at the Local Offer for children with disabilities and explore:

- Expectations – what would you like to get out of the session?
- How do you know what you are entitled to in terms of respite and support? This may be a direct payment
- How systems and processes work at the moment and what could be better to be implemented December 2019
- How the budget amount is decided
- Clarity on what it can be used for
- How it is reviewed

Your feedback will change local practice, and become part of new policies around respite/support and direct payments.

The new policies and processes will go out for local consultation to you in Sept to be in place by Dec 2-19

# General Questions

How did you hear about your entitlement to respite and support or direct payments?

How did you know if you were eligible or not?

What made you interested in a direct payment rather than a managed budget (where the council arranges your child's services) for respite and support ?

# Haringey Eligibility for Respite and Support

- Undisputed disability that is permanent and severe (Equality Act 2010)
- Therefore eligible for services from the disabled children's social work team
- Resource allocation tool (RAS) completed by professional working with child or parent, sometimes council officer
- RAS allocates 'points' dependent on your child's needs and the impact
- The completed RAS is considered at Integrated Additional Services Panel (IASP)
- Direct Payments or managed budget given depending on parents request
- Direct payment rate is £10.50 per hour
- 210 families get a direct payment for short breaks, and 72 have a managed budget which might be a family link worker or after school clubs

# What is an Undisputed disability that is permanent and severe (Equality Act 2010)?

- Children who have a physical or learning disability that is substantial / severe and will have a lifelong effect on their ability to carry out day to day activities, will usually have the level of need that meets the criteria for a service from the DCT.
- a). They have a physical impairment or earning disability
- b). The impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on the person's ability to carry out normal day to day activities
- Within this context, this will mean that more than one of the following will apply:
- (i) The child uses specialist equipment for mobility;
- (ii) The child requires support for all self-care functions when this is no longer age appropriate;
- (iii) The child's needs mean that they require constant supervision throughout the day and for prolonged periods at night, when this is no longer age appropriate due to their learning or physical disability;
- (iv) The child has highly challenging behaviour resulting from a severe disability that causes a serious risk to themselves or others (including but not exclusively, self-harm);
- (v) The child has communication needs which, without support, severely affects their personal safety (i.e. is deaf, blind or without speech);
- (vi) The child has complex feeding issues (for example, the child may need to be fed non-orally, i.e. through a gastrostomy tube); as part of the pattern of needs as described above
- (vii) The child has been diagnosed as having a profound and multiple learning disability.
- (viii) The child has a long term health condition which is life limiting or life threatening which mean that a) and b) conditions above are met.

# Examples of how other boroughs provide direct payments

## Hackney and Islington – Hours of Support/Who can have it



Hackney - You can apply for short breaks if you have middle or high rate Disability Living Allowance or Pip at intermediate or advanced. Support is 'lite' 110 hours of short breaks (equivalent to £1,155 per child) or an extra 55 hours after social care assessment where a Direct payment can be requested. This would be for more costly services.



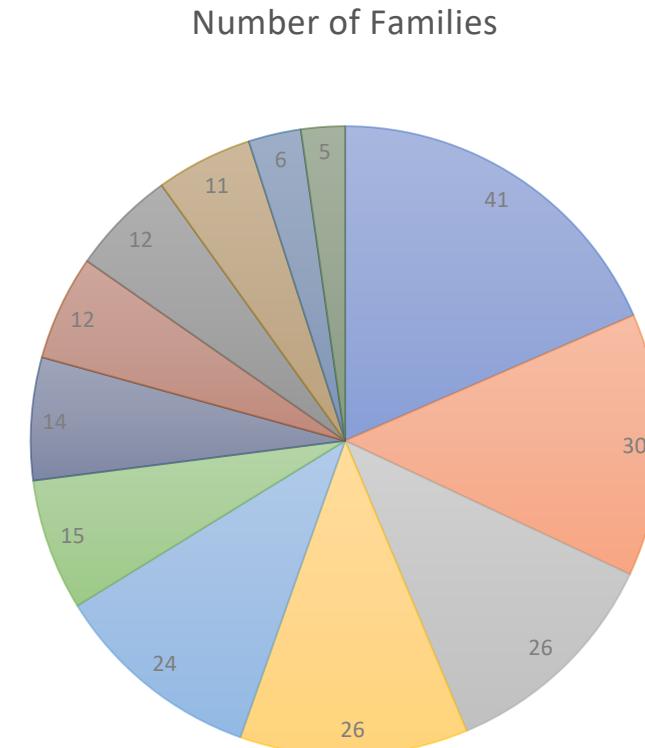
Islington - Assessment using the EHC or social work assessment, eligible for 78 hours or £1,045.20 (2-5 year olds) or 156 hours or £2,090.40 (5-18 years). Direct payment eligibility is agreed by social care after an assessment and is at £13.40 per hour

# Examples from Camden and Enfield

- Camden - Use a ‘functional needs assessment’ and children need to score as 2 moderate or 1 severe (similar to a RAS) after assessment by a health professional. (learning, mobility, Speech and Language, behaviour, and physical health). This is after a family has submitted a **self assessment**. The core offer is 260 hours per year (5 per week) (equivalent to £2,730 at Haringey rates) for after school or clubs at weekends or holidays. Their enhanced offer is available after a social care assessment and includes overnights and personal care.
- Enfield - short breaks are provided if the child is eligible for the Disabled children social work team. Enfield explicitly states they not provide to high functioning autism, Social Emotional Mental Health, dyspraxia or dyslexia. Direct payments can be used personal care services only and an E card is used, no cash. Direct payment of £500- £2,500 are provided. Hours are not specified. There is an Enfield short breaks service of outreach support from Cheviot’s centre.

# Current Direct Payments - Amount of Budget Given per Family per Year

Number of Families	Range of Budget Given per Year to Families
41	2000-2999
30	3000-3499
26	1000-1499
26	1500-1999
24	100-550
15	3500-3999
14	5000-5999
12	750 -999
12	8000-12999
11	6000-7999
6	13,000-25000 – Physical Health Needs
5	4000-4999



# What Direct Payments are used for Haringey

Buying after school and holiday clubs

Personal care

Employing someone to take your child out

Overnight care

Therapies, if Whittington Health is not able to provide what is in a child's EHCP e.g. Child at school in another borough

Transport, if your child has a specific health support need and services are not able to provide the support – amount depends on distance from home



# The 2016 Policy for Direct Payment - Discussion – did you know this about holidays?

- **Direct Payment money can be used for**
  - Services or activities while you are away on holiday, for example to pay for horse riding, go-carts, swimming, canoeing or other such activity for your child.
  - To pay for a carer to accompany your disabled child on holiday- as this is an additional cost which has to be paid to enable your disabled child to go on a holiday. The carer will not be a member of the family and should be specifically being employed as a carer to enable your child to have a holiday.
  - To pay for additional identified costs incurred because your child is disabled.
  - Please retain receipts for all activities and for the costs for the carer if they are purchased through your child's Personal Budget. If you identify costs that are additional for your child to go on holiday, please let the Personal Budget Officers know about these in advance so that our records can be updated with the information.
- **Personal Budget -Direct Payment money cannot be used for**
  - Payment of Holidays or trips away.
  - School trips
  - The purchase of airplane tickets or other means of travel abroad.

# How we assess - the Resource Allocation Tool – table discussion

Be fit and Healthy	To be Relaxed and Happy (Emotional Wellbeing)	To Be Able to Travel Safely and Use Public Transport for Children over the Age of 11 (Independence Skills)	To Be Able to Communicate Well (Communication Skills)	To Join in With Activities With Other Children (from age 5+) (Social Skills)
To Learn the Skills I need to be as Confident and Independent as I can be. (Applicable to children over 5 years) (Independence Skills)	To have a Circle of Friends (Social Skills)	To Be Safe At Home With Immediate Family	To Be Safe In their Community	Family Life is Good and There is Time for Everyone in the Family to enjoy life and pursue the things that matter to them (Emotional Well Being)
Parent/Carers get a good night's sleep (Physical Health/Emotional Wellbeing)	Parents/ Carers get the Support they need from friends, neighbours and extended family which regularly provides them with Short Breaks (Emotional Wellbeing)	Descriptors all scored at no support, some support, lots of support, exceptional support		

# What Parents have told us so far.....

- Eligibility criteria are not clear, parents don't necessarily know what their child is entitled to.
- Parents were really unclear about the council's policy on holidays
- Found the process for getting the budget difficult and lengthy – need information about the process and timeline.
- Parents wanted more understanding of the scoring for the Resource Allocation Tool
- Agreed Direct Payment was flexible and useful if a child cannot access universal services- but universal services such as parks should be more accessible
- Discussion of e-card
  - Parents have different views: benefits include not needing to manual account for payments, but parents do sometimes need to pay for services in cash so needs to be flexible for this
  - Pre-payment card – you can still make payments via bank transfers from the bank account, as well as using the physical card
- More information about safeguarding – checklist to help parents spot signs of risk of harm, guidance on assured providers. For parents employing staff, this is especially important!
  - Information about the LADO
- Advice and support about PIP entitlement or other benefits needed more widely
- Parents talked about the range of schemes to help families of disabled children and young people access activities and universal settings – London Taxi Card Scheme, CEA cards, cinema and train discounts/Autism Card etc. It isn't easy to find what is out there.
- Want to know about disability friendly settings (cinemas, playgrounds, retail etc) in addition to the targeted / specialist short breaks services – e.g. Legoland, London Zoo
- Is the hourly rate in line with london living wage – why are some boroughs higher?
- What will happen if arrangements change - parents wanted to make sure changes applied to new applications only



Parents at the May 2019 events thought that a standard offer works for children with less complex needs, with a social care assessment to bring in additional support / budget for children with more complex needs



Parents discussed the benefits of grouping personal budget basic entitlement by age (2-5 years and 5-18 years). Groups said this made sense as children's support needs may increase and services may cost more as child gets older (e.g. an increased staffing ratio as child becomes bigger and stronger).



Parents felt the need for DLA to get a personal budget would make it too hard for families to access DPs and know what they are entitled to.



Parents were not in favour of a direct payment to be used for personal care only.

## Views on other boroughs approaches

# Questions

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Does Haringey  
need a checklist  
for eligibility?  
How will  
families know  
their offer?

Should Haringey  
have a  
'standard' offer  
of hours?

Should Haringey  
have a short  
breaks  
Guarantee?

Should Haringey  
change the  
Resource  
allocation tool?  
How?