

Direct Payments

Factsheet – Carers

Can Carers receive direct payments?

If you are eligible for social care support from the council you can choose to have direct payments so that you can organise and buy services yourself instead of the council arranging services for you. Carers can receive direct payments instead of receiving Carers' services.

Why would I want direct payments?

Direct payments allow you to make more of the decisions that affect your life. You can decide how your support needs are met. You can make arrangements directly so that any staff you employ report directly to you. If you use an agency, the agency deals with you, not the council.

How could I get direct payments?

To get direct payments as a Carer you need first to **have a Carer's Assessment**. You can request an assessment by contacting the Adults Social Care Team.

If the person you care for is in hospital, speak to a nurse and ask to be put in touch with a hospital social worker. If you are eligible for support because of all you do as a carer, your assessor will explain what the options are - this will include how direct payments could work for you.

Can Young Carers have direct payments?

If you are under 18 years old and are undertaking a substantial caring role for an adult, direct payments might be an option for you. **You can request a Carer's Assessment** by contacting the Carer Support Team.

What can direct payments be used for?

Direct payments must be used to meet the needs that have been agreed through your **Carer's Needs Assessment** so that you are supported in your caring role and helped to keep well and healthy.

Direct payments can be used to buy goods and services or to directly employ someone. There are some things you cannot use direct payments for:

- To pay yourself as a Carer for the care you provide.

- To employ someone who lives in the same household as you or in the household of the person you care for (unless the council agrees that this is necessary – please speak to your social worker)
- Services of an intimate nature (e.g. bathing) or respite care for the person you care for. If we agree following their assessment that they need such support, they could have their own direct payments or have their services arranged by a social worker.

Will I need to pay anything myself?

The council does not charge for services for Carers. You will not be financially assessed.

Direct payments do not affect any benefits you may be receiving. However, they will affect the benefits of anybody you choose to employ.

Could the person I care for receive direct payments?

Most people who have social care support at home from the council receive direct payments:

- Older people who have been assessed as needing community care services.
- Disabled people aged 16 and over, including those with short as well as long term needs
- Parents of disabled children to help support the child.
- People receiving a direct payment on behalf of someone else who lacks capacity?

Sometimes a person who needs social care support is not able to make the necessary decisions about direct payments. This is described as lacking capacity. It is possible for someone to receive direct payments on their behalf and to use them to meet the **person's needs**. If you are the **Carer of** someone who would benefit from direct payments and either you or someone you know would be willing to act as the Authorised Person to receive the direct payments for them, please get in touch with the direct payments Support Team using the contact details at the end of this fact sheet.



Where can I get more information?

If you would like help with assessing your social care needs, please contact the council's First Response Team.

First response team: **20 8489 1400**
firstresponseteam@haringey.gov.uk

If you would like more information on direct payments or would like support with your direct payment, please contact the Direct Payments Support Team.

Direct Payments Support Team:
Phone: 020 8489 8456
Email: PersonalBudgetSupport@haringey.gov.uk

If you have a mental health problem:

If you need help in a crisis you can now self-refer to the Crisis Resolution Home Treatment service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, **Lea Unit, St. Ann's Hospital - Haringey 020 8702 6700.**

If you are a carer and would like more information on receiving support, please contact Haringey Carers First.

Haringey Carers First.
<https://www.carersfirst.org.uk/haringey>
Phone: 0300 303 1555
Email: hello@carersfirst.org.uk
Address: Resource Hub, 1 Russell Road, Leyton, E10 7ES

Department of Health:
Website: www.dh.gov.uk/policyandguidance
Then search on direct payments for detailed information. This gives information on policies and guidance relating to direct payments. Also available to order - 'An easy guide to direct payments, for those with a learning Disability.

Skills for Care:

The Skills for Care website provides more information on what is a Personal Assistant (PA) and what is involved if you want to use your direct payment to employ a PA:

<http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/individualemployers>

This information is presented in a range of toolkits. If you are unable to access the Skills for Care website, you can call **0113 245 1716.**