

Adult Social Care Direct Payments



Coventry City Council

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COVENTRY

Updated May 2023

● What is a Direct Payment?

A direct payment is the sum of money that Coventry City Council will pay directly to you, so you can buy and arrange your own care and support, instead of the Council arranging it for you.

Direct payments are part of the Government's Personalisation agenda, which puts you central to the support you receive, helping you live as independently as possible and giving you more choice and control. If want more information please read our Direct Payments policy.

www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/file/13680/direct_payments_policy

● Who can have a Direct Payment?

After you have had a social care assessment, and you have been advised if you can get help from the Council with your eligible social care needs, you will then be told about the amount you might get to help you. This is called an 'indicative amount'.

When you and the Council have worked out the best ways to help you, the amount this help costs will be worked out. The Council will have to agree if this is the best way to meet your needs and the final amount the Council will contribute towards your support. When this has been agreed, this is called a Personal Budget.

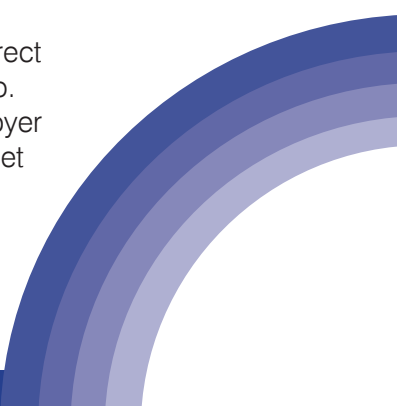
The Council will ask you if you would like to have the Personal Budget paid to you, or someone you know who wants to help you. This is so you can pay for your own support yourself. This means you can to choose who helps you at the times that fit in with your life and in the way you think is the best. When your Personal Budget is paid to you this is called a Direct Payment.

You can have some of the money paid to you, as a direct payment, for you to organise some of your support and also you could ask the Council to set up the rest of your support. This is called a 'mixed package'.

The Council will assess if you are able to make a decision about having a direct payment. For example, if you understand and can remember what a direct payment is and how it can be used, and if you understand/remember what is involved with being an employer of staff who will support you.

If you cannot make this decision yourself, the Council can ask someone who knows you well to help to make this decision with you. This could be family or friends.

The Council will also need to assess if you can manage a direct payment on your own, or whether you might need some help. Managing direct payments can mean you become an employer of carers, you have to complete paperwork and also follow set rules and law.



If you do decide to employ your own staff to support you, these workers are called Personal Assistant.

If you need help to manage, you can ask someone to manage this for you and/or the Council can ask someone to do this for you.

● What support can I get with my Direct Payment and how will it make my life better?

Penderels Trust, are an organisation that is paid by the council to support people with managing their direct payments. They can be contacted on 024 7651 1611 or Coventry@penderelstrust.org.uk

You can find an agency by visiting the Care Quality Commission at <https://cqc.org.uk/>

If you need support to find another personal assistant or a care provider, you can also contact Penderels Trust on 024 7651 1611 or visit them at: <https://www.penderelstrust.org.uk/> and register on their PA finder.

The Council can sometimes ask other organisations to manage your direct payment if it is agreed that this is needed for you.

In exceptional circumstances we can pay for family members living in the same house as you to help you manage your direct payment.

You can also ask for help from your allocated worker or from the Independent Living team Telephone: 024 7527 0960.

● How often will I get a Direct Payment and how Can I spend it?

● How often will I get a direct payment?

Some adults, carers, children and families need help all the time and will get paid the direct payment every four weeks.

Other adults, carers, children and families need help once, or for a short time, and this could be paid as a one-off direct payment.

You can use your direct payment to pay for your personal assistants to go on training courses when it is needed to support you or to pay for some of the costs of employing staff.



● What can I spend the Direct Payment on?

There is no 'set' list of support, activities or goods that you can buy with your direct payment.

You have to use your direct payment to meet your eligible care and support needs that the Council has found out about from your assessment and are recorded in your care and support plan.

As long as the direct payment is used to meet eligible care and support needs it is up to you (or the person managing this on your behalf if you cannot make these decisions) to choose the best way to meet your needs.

This could be as follows:

- Help at home, or out and about, by Personal Assistants or staff working for Care Agencies
- Activities, interests and goods
- Short breaks/replacement care/respice
- Equipment and Adaptations (this needs to be agreed following an assessment by an Occupational Therapist).

You will need to discuss and agree your plans with the Council.

● How can a Direct Payment make my life better?

People that have direct payments are able to choose who, how and when they are supported.

This means that they are able to have help that fits in with their life, their family and what they like to do or that they need to do.

"Using direct payments to employ staff has helped me learn independent living skills. I have employed people myself and they help me to live on my own."

"Employing our own staff using DP's means that Heidi has chosen her own staff and I have direct control over the way they work with my daughter, rather than having to go through an agency and getting different staff all the time."

"It was important for my parents to keep their independence as much as possible and in the beginning was a big leap for them to accept help and support, when they realised that we would have our own account and be personally responsible for the payments and how they are allocated they were very impressed and both I and my Dad felt really empowered. The Direct Payment Scheme enabled us all to feel that we had some say and control over how my Mothers care providers operated. It's a partnership that really works, with access to information and training which continually helps us to make informed choices. Having control of the budget for care builds confidence and trust and gives us all the reassurance we all needed."

“Direct payments means I can employ staff to work with my daughter on specific skills e.g. independent living skills, travel training, cooking, shopping. Once one skill is learnt the staff can move onto a new area of her independence.”

“We can mix and match how we use the money. This creates flexibility, e.g. I used the direct payment to pay for care when we visit family in York. We can change provision easily. I changed agencies when I became unhappy with a previous provider without huge issues of bureaucracy. It gives us autonomy and independence as a family to make choices, e.g. about carers, times, use of respite.”

● Will it affect my benefits or the money I earn from a job?

A direct payment is not a benefit. This means that it will not affect any benefits or pensions you receive.

Everyone that has ongoing help with their needs from the Council will have another assessment to work out how much they have to pay towards the care and support they get from the Council. This is called a ‘financial assessment’.

We will tell you how much you have to pay when the direct payment is set up.

● How do I find out more?

Phone your current social care team or the allocated worker that is supporting you.

Phone the Independent Living Team on telephone 024 7683 3362 or 024 7683 3410.

If you are not sure which team to contact, please contact: Adult Social Care Direct email: ASCdirect@coventry.gov.uk Tel: 024 7683 3003



○ Contact Adult Social Care Direct

Call **024 7683 3003**

or email ascdirect@coventry.gov.uk

or visit www.coventry.gov.uk/health-social-care

Speech impairment, deaf or hard of hearing? You can call using Next Generation Text (also known as Text Relay and TypeTalk): **18001 024 7683 3003**

If you require this information in another language or format, please email ascdirect@coventry.gov.uk

Jeśli potrzebujesz zawartych informacji w innym języku lub formacie, prosimy o wiadomość e-mail na adres ascdirect@coventry.gov.uk

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ascdirect@coventry.gov.uk 'ਤੇ ਈਮੇਲ ਕਰੋ

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Dacă aveți nevoie de aceste informații într-o altă limbă sau format, vă rugăm trimiteți email la: ascdirect@coventry.gov.uk

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