

Factsheet 2 of 6: Direct Payments Support Planning & Money

How much money will I receive?

Your Direct Payment amount will be based on the cost of the services to meet your eligible social care needs. You will need to show how you intend to spend the Direct Payment within a Support Plan, and the money you receive will be the actual cost of those care services less any financial customer contribution.

You will be financially assessed to see if you need to make a contribution to the cost of any support you are entitled to. Your Direct Payment amount will be paid to you less any financial contribution you are required to make from the start of your care.

What is a Support Plan?

This is a document that you will produce with your care manager/support planner that shows your choice of support services and how these services will meet your assessed care needs.

What can Direct Payments be used for?

Goods and services can only be purchased that are safe, legal and meet your needs and agreed outcomes as shown in your support plan.

Below are some examples of how a Direct Payment can be used:

- To buy care and support services from a provider of your own choice or to directly employ someone to help you
- Carers Break/Respite care either within the UK or abroad as an alternative to a residential placement e.g. in a hotel or B&B, self-catering or perhaps a short stay with relatives (equivalent cost of the required break)
- A range of adaptive equipment to support independent living within your home
- Support services to access cultural, religious activities, social event or outings

Below are some examples of how a Direct Payment cannot be used:

- Day to day living i.e. rent, mortgage, food, heating or lighting
- To purchase services provided by staff directly employed by Central Bedfordshire Council, e.g. 'in-house' home care
- Paying someone for providing help when they would ordinarily do so e.g. employing a close relative living in the same household unless in special circumstances
- To purchase Council provided services including permanent residential or nursing care
- For any activities that may bring the Council into disrepute including all illegal activities

How do I find out more?

Direct Payments are your choice.

Further Direct Payment Factsheets are available

For more information contact the Direct Payments Team:

Telephone 0300 300 8341

or e-mail direct.payments@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk