

Direct Payments



If you or someone you care for is eligible for care and support from the council you will be offered a personal budget.



You can ask the council to arrange your care for you and manage your personal budget or you can have a Direct Payment.



With a Direct Payment the council will make payments directly to you. You then buy the care and support you need yourself. This gives you more control and allows you to make your own decisions about how your care and support is delivered.



You can choose and pay for services you want through your Direct Payment. You must be able to show how they meet your assessed needs though.

Who can have a Direct Payment?



To get Direct Payments you will need to have had an assessment.

People who can get them include:

- Older people who need community care services
- Carers aged 16 and over
- A disabled person with parental responsibility for a child for children's services
- Disabled people aged 16 or over with short- or long-term needs.



To get a Direct Payment, you or someone acting on your behalf like a family member, must be able to arrange, manage and pay for your services and manage your personal budget.

What can a Direct Payment be used for?



- Employing your own staff to help with things like personal care, getting out and about, meeting friends and supporting you around your home
- Buying services from a care and support agency
- Buying services from voluntary and community organisations
- Arranging short breaks
- Buying assistive equipment for your home
- Helping you to live a healthy lifestyle.



What can't they be spent on?

- Permanent residential and nursing care
- Employing family members or a partner living in the same house as you
- Council run care and support services
- NHS services
- Personal household items
- Accommodation and housing costs.

Is there a charge?



There is a charging policy for people aged 18 and over. This is the same as lots of council services.



This means you might have to pay towards the cost of your Direct Payment.



We call this a contribution. It will depend on your income but our Team will talk to you about paying the contribution.

Are Direct Payments difficult to manage?



We try to make Direct Payments as easy to manage as possible. If you decide to choose a Direct Payment, our team can give you information and advice around managing it.



You can contact them between 8:30am and 5pm Monday to Thursday and between 8:30am and 4:30pm on Fridays.

The phone number is 01274 434191 or you can email dp@bradford.gov.uk



Most people who have a Direct Payment will use a payroll company to support with things like paying staff wages. The cost of this will be met through your Direct Payment.

What am I responsible for?



You will be responsible for:

- Managing the money. You will need to have a separate Direct Payment bank account. You will also need to keep records of how the money is spent
- Arranging any services and sorting out any problems
- Employing staff and taking on legal responsibilities related to them.



How can I apply?

If you receive care and support funded by the council and would like to change to a Direct Payment, please contact your social worker.



If you do not have a social worker, contact the Independence Advice Hub on 01274 435400.



If you are applying for support for the first time your social worker should discuss Direct Payments with you.



If you are able to get a Direct Payment, we will discuss a start date with you. You can then make arrangements for your own care and support.



When you are happy with the arrangements you will be asked to sign a contract with us. The payment will then be set up.



Further Information

You can find more information about Directs Payments at [Bradford Connect to Support Direct Payment Zone](#) on the Connect to Support website.