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Brighton & Hove City Council

Direct Payments

Putting You in Control

Brighton & Hove City Council

What are Direct Payments?

Direct Payments is one of the ways Adult Social Care supports people who are eligible for services.

Direct Payments is money given to you by the council for you to spend on the care service you want.

This gives you more **independence, choice** and **control** and the **flexibility** to choose the care services you want,

If you are unable to manage direct payments yourself we can provide indirect payments where someone you trust becomes responsible for managing the money on your behalf.

Do I have to pay anything towards this?

As with traditional care services, you will need to have a financial assessment, to see if you will be expected to make a contribution towards your care.

We have an information leaflet called 'Charges for non-residential services', which explains the charges in more detail

Do I get help to manage the money?

federation of disabled people
voices for change

Brighton & Hove Federation of Disabled People provides a Direct Payments Support Service, which includes

- Information and advice
- pay roll service
- support to recruit, interview, select and vet people you employ
- supported bank accounts

What do I have to do?

You will need to open a separate bank account for the direct payments to be paid into, this is because your monthly bank statements are used for monitoring payments.

If you have been assessed to pay a financial contribution towards the cost of your care it will need to be paid into the separate bank account.

If a single, one off payment is being made, then you do not need a separate account.

If opening a bank account is difficult for you we can provide a supported bank account.

If you have someone in mind that you want to support you then you will need to have employers liability insurance for them as well as national insurance and tax.

The cost of these will be included in your direct payments and we can make sure everything is in place for you.

How do I get Direct Payments?

If you are already a service user and you want to transfer to direct payments, or if you are new to adult social care, you can contact the access point to discuss your individual circumstances and package of care needs.

If you meet the council's eligibility criteria you will be considered for direct payments.

I'm interested in Direct Payments, what happens next?

If you are new to adult social care or do not currently have a named social worker, care manager or occupational therapist you can:

- Phone our access point on 01273 295555
- Email: accesspoint@brighton-hove.gov.uk

If you do have a worker you can talk to them about direct payments and they will guide you through the process.

What can I spend my Direct Payments on?

Direct payments can be used for:

- employing a personal assistant
- employing a care worker from an agency
- a live-in carer
- short stays in care homes (no more than four weeks)
- daytime activities
- Equipment

Direct payments can cover all or part of your support needs. They can be used for ongoing support or as a single one off payment.