

A Guide to getting Direct Payments from Flintshire County Council

Easier to Read Version

November 2019

What are Direct Payments?



Direct Payments are a way for you to get the support you need



You get money from Flintshire County Council to help pay for the support you need to live your life in the way that you choose.



You choose who supports you, when they support you and how they support you – You are in charge.

Can I get a Direct Payment?

You may be able to get a Direct Payment if:

- You are over 16
- You are already getting support from Flintshire County Council
- Flintshire County Council agrees that you need paid support
- You are the parent of a disabled child who needs paid support
- You are an unpaid Carer

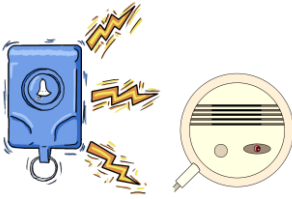
What can I use my Direct Payment for?



You can use your Direct Payment to pay for the support you need to live a good life.

You may choose to:

- Pay a care agency of your choice
- Employ staff of your choice
- Arrange your own respite care to give you or your carer a break
- Buy equipment that helps you live your life
- Arrange you own day time opportunities instead of going to a day centre.
- Pool your direct payment with other people to make the money go further



A mix of all these things

How can I get Direct Payments?



Speak to your social worker as they can help you to see what support you need.

They will explain how Direct Payments work and what you should do next.



If you have not had an assessment before then Flintshire County Council needs to do this before you can have Direct Payments.

An assessment is a check to see what you need.



You could also speak to someone else that you trust and ask them for some help.

How can Direct Payments help me?

You can be more independent and you can take more responsibility for yourself.



You can have control in your life.

You are the one making the decisions. You are in charge.



You have more choice.

You decide who gives you the support you need.

Most people can benefit from a direct payment with the right help.

Is a Direct Payment right for me?



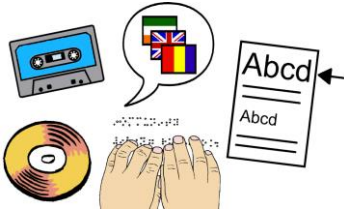
You need to think about what you want to do in your life. Direct Payments are a good way of making you the boss of your own life.

- You can choose what support you need
- When you use your support
- Who you get your support from



You make the right choices for you, rather than letting social services make all these decisions.

It is important you have good information and time to think about things before you decide if you want a Direct Payment. You need to think about what Direct Payments would mean for your daily life.



It is a good idea to talk to other people who know about Direct Payments. You can talk to:



- A Direct Payments expert from the council
- Your family and friends
- People who have a Direct Payment
- An Advocate or your local Advocacy group
- Your Care Co-ordinator or Social Worker
- Penderels Trust



What do you have to do to set up a Direct Payment?



If you decide to have a Direct Payment there are things you need to do. You do not have to do these on your own. Someone can help you.

You will need to:

- Choose how you want to spend your Direct Payment and agree this with the council.
- Agree how you would like your direct payment to be managed



What help can you have for Direct Payments?

If you decide to have a Direct Payment you do not have to do everything by yourself. You can get lots of help and support.



You will still be in control even if you have support. Penderels Trust can support you with your Direct Payment for as long as you need them to. They can give you advice about:



- Living more independently
- What Direct Payments are about
- How to work out what support you need
- The Social Care Assessment
- How to organise your support
- Managing your direct payment
- Being an employer of staff



They can give you practical help too like

- Finding people to support you
- Help to pay your supporters their wages (payroll services)
- Help to set up services with an agency
- Answering your questions
- Help with being an employer



What can I spend my Direct Payment on?



You must use the money to buy the support the Council agrees you need.



Some of the things you can buy are

- Support with personal things like having a bath or getting dressed
- Support to live in your own house like cooking, cleaning or help to look after your money
- Equipment to help you live more independently
- Support to help you to do things in the day instead of going to a Day Centre
- Support to go to work or college
- Support for leisure activities or to go on holiday
- Pooling your money with other people to do things that you couldn't do on your own.
- The council and Penderels Trust will support you to meet your support needs creatively.



What can't I spend my Direct Payment on?



- You cannot use the money to buy health services like medication or nursing care.
- You cannot use the money to pay for things that we all have to pay for, like food, entry fees or living expenses.
- You cannot use the money to pay your household bills.



Will Direct Payments affect other money you have?



Having a Direct Payment will not affect your benefits.

Changing your mind



If you decide that you do not want to keep having Direct Payments the Council will sort out your services for you instead.



If the Council thinks you are not managing your Direct Payments they will talk to you and your representatives about this.

They may arrange more help with managing your direct payment or change the way your direct payment is paid. The council will always try to help you to stay in control of your life.

Where do I get more information?



To find out more about Direct Payments ask you Social Worker or the person in the council who normally helps you.

Name: _____



Or, you could ask:

Mark Cooper – Direct Payments Officer

Tel: 01352 701101

E Mail: mark.cooper@flintshire.gov.uk



You could also ask the local Direct Payments Support Agency.

Penderels Trust

St Andrews Park

Mold

Flintshire



Tel: 01352 706235

E mail: flintshire@penderelstrust.org.uk

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg. Cysylltwch â 03000 858 858 i gael fersiwn Gymraeg.

This document is available in Welsh. Please contact 03000 858 858 for a Welsh version.

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