

Direct Payments For Adults

What you need to know

This leaflet explains what Direct Payments are and who can receive them.



Personal Budgets and Direct Payments

Funding made available to pay for an individual's care and support needs is called a Personal Budget. You may be allocated a Personal Budget following an assessment of your care and support needs.

If you are allocated a Personal Budget we will help you plan your care and support. You can:

- Take your personal budget as a **Direct Payment**
- Ask the council to arrange, manage and pay for your support – this is called a **commissioned service OR**
- Have a **combination of both.**

Direct Payments

If you choose to take your Personal Budget as a **Direct Payment** you will be able to arrange and pay for services and activities in your support plan yourself.

You will have more choice and flexibility about how your support needs are met. If you are unable to manage the Budget yourself then you can nominate someone to do this on your behalf.

Who can receive Direct Payments?

You may receive **Direct Payments** if you are eligible for support from us. If you are a carer you may also be eligible for a **Direct Payment** for yourself.

You will need to be able and willing to manage the **Direct Payments** either alone or with help.

You or your nominated person must be the one who makes the choices and accepts responsibility. We will also need to agree that a **Direct Payment** is an appropriate way to meet your needs.

What can Direct Payments be used for?

According to your identified support needs:

- You can choose to employ someone as a **Personal Assistant** and arrange your own care. You will be considered an employer and we will give guidance and support with this. Information about Personal Assistants (PAs) can be found on our West Berkshire Directory 'Need help at home' section.
<https://directory.westberks.gov.uk>
- You can fund **day activities or replacement care (respite)**.
- You may choose to use an **agency**. Information about agencies can also be found on our West Berkshire Directory 'Need help at home' section.
<https://directory.westberks.gov.uk>
- If you use an agency for personal care it must be registered with the Care Quality Commission:
www.cqc.org.uk
- You may choose to use a **combination** of the **council commissioned** support and **Direct Payments** support.
- **Direct Payments** are not an extra income to spend as you wish.

Further Information about this is given in our Direct Payments Guide. At present Direct Payments cannot be used to pay for:

- Permanent residential care

- NHS provided services
- Housing services
- Stock items of equipment provided by the council

Are there any charges?

You may have to pay towards your care and support depending on your financial situation. If you choose to go ahead with the Personal Budget we will arrange a financial assessment and advise if you have to make a contribution. (Please refer to West Berkshire Council's Charging Policy:

www.westberks.gov.uk/chargesforyourcare

Contact information:

For enquiries about Adult Social Care: -

Adult Social Care **01635 503050**
adultcare@westberks.gov.uk

For guidance and support about Direct Payments including recruiting and employing Personal Assistants, contact the:

Direct Payment Financial Reviewing Team
01635 503433 PBMonitoring@westberks.gov.uk

Equal Opportunities

We are committed to being accessible to everyone. If you require this document in an alternative format or translation, please call Mary Froom on **01635 503433**.