

# What are the advantages of Direct Payments?

You can arrange the care and support that is best suited to meet your child or young person's assessed needs, giving you control and flexibility to also meet the family's support needs.

# How are Direct Payments accessed?

An assessment of need is undertaken by a social worker. If your child or young person is eligible for social care support or services, a Direct Payment is one way of meeting the needs that have been identified.

If you choose Direct Payments, Cornwall Council has a duty to make sure that the service safeguards and promotes the welfare of your child or young person. The Council will make the arrangements, and meet the costs for personal assistants to follow the enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checking process.

“ You can arrange the care and support that is best suited to meet your child or young person's assessed needs. ”



## Contact us

For more information contact Children and Family Services on:

**0300 1234 101**

Further information is also available at:

**[www.cornwall.gov.uk](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk)**

**If you would like this information in another format or language please contact:**

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# Direct Payments for disabled children and young people

information for young people, parents and carers



## What are Direct Payments?

Direct Payments are payments that are paid to the parent or carer of a disabled child, or to a disabled young person up to 18 years of age. It enables them to either arrange and pay for their own support and services or to receive support from an independent sector provider.

Direct Payments will allow you to employ your own staff to provide care and support for your child or young person, instead of receiving assistance arranged from Cornwall Council.

A Direct Payment can offer greater choice and control over how you manage your child's needs and can provide increased independence for a young disabled person.

There is no charge involved in choosing Direct Payments and your entitlement to benefits will not be affected.

## Who can receive Direct Payments?

Anyone who has parental responsibility for a disabled child or young disabled person aged up to 18; and where an assessment has been undertaken by a social worker, confirming there is an identified need and that additional social care intervention is required to meet those needs. The Direct Payment provision will be included in the Child Plan.

## What can Direct Payments be used for?

Direct Payments can be used to purchase a service or support that meets the identified assessed needs of disabled children and young people; this may be over a specified period of time or as a one-off payment.

Some families choose to employ a personal assistant to provide care and support; this may for example, enable your child or young person to access activities, or increase their independence, as detailed in their most recent Child Plan.

Direct Payments can also be used for accessing short breaks, if this has been identified as an assessed need.

You have a responsibility to ensure that the Direct Payment funds are spent only on the needs identified in the child or young person's Child Plan.

The Child Plan will be reviewed at regular intervals or where there is a change in need or change in circumstances. This may mean that Direct Payments would increase, decrease or cease. You should let your social care worker know if your child or young person's needs have changed.



## Views on Direct Payments from children and young people:

“ My PA's are really nice and we have lots of fun doing things. ”

“ I enjoy spending time with my PA's, they're fun. ”

“ I love it. It's someone else for me to go out with and I learn about new things. ”

## View from parents:

“ It's fantastic, it could not have gone better. When I look at the improvements that have been made since Direct Payments started it's just brilliant. ”

“ They're wonderful and really help us as a whole family. It's made such a difference to our lives. ”

“ Direct Payments have been an absolute lifesaver, particularly over the summer, it really works for us. ”

“ We're really appreciative of the support, this has enabled us as a family to maintain some degree of stability. ”

“ The best support we've received in the last 10 years. It's a good service, I'm very happy and he loves the one to one time with the carer. ”