

Contact details:

For further information about Direct Payments

Tel: 01384 813465

Dudley Children's Services general enquires

Tel: 01384 815822

A4e

Tel: 0121 226 3510

For further information about Direct Payments

Tel: 01384 813465

email: dudleycouncilplus@dudley.gov.uk

www.dudley.gov.uk/health-social-care

Direct Payments

Helping you choose the services
you and your child need

This leaflet can be made available in community languages, large print and on audio tape if required. For further information please call 01384 815822.



What are Direct Payments and who are they for?

Direct Payments give you more choice and control over how services are provided and can give more independence to carers and young people.

Direct Payments is money, which is given to you to pay for care instead of Children's Services providing the care directly. Sometimes it's also possible to have both, with some care paid for by Direct Payments and some provided directly by Children's Services.

If you or the child/young person you are caring for has been assessed by Children's Services as being in need of support services you may be entitled to receive Direct Payments. You may qualify if you are aged over 16 and have a physical, sensory or learning disability or a mental health problem; if you are a parent, carer or guardian of a child with a disability; if you are a carer aged over 16.

These Direct Payments should not be confused with direct payments for benefit, which are paid via the Department of Work and Pensions.

How does it work and what can the money be used for?

After the worker has assessed your child/young persons need, the decision will be made about how those needs can be met. If the choice is direct payments to purchase services, then a sum of money is paid into a special account to buy the care. This could be used to employ a personal assistant or to purchase help directly from an agency or nursery. Direct Payments can be used to support you in your parenting responsibilities and help you buy a number of different services, including:

- personal care
- short term breaks
- involvement in social, leisure and sport activities (16-17 year olds)

What are the benefits of Direct Payments?

- They offer choice and control with the help that is needed, such as who helps with the care, when the carer comes to give help, when they go and what help they give.
- They provide the opportunity to be imaginative, as long as the help you purchase with Direct Payments meets the needs identified in the assessment.
- They can give flexibility - if money is not spent one week then more can be spent on care the next week.
- Direct Payments can give choice and flexibility by providing some of the help needed with Children's Services providing the remainder.

How do I qualify?

You need to be willing and able to manage the Direct Payment alone or with help from friends or relatives. You can get independent support and advice from the direct payments provider A4E on 0121 226 3510.

Where can I get more information?

Please see contact details on back page. If a social worker or nurse from the children's disability team or a social worker from one of the area teams is already involved, then you can speak to them. If there isn't a social worker involved please ask to speak to the duty social worker at childrens services.