

# Direct payments for carers



## hello

This booklet tells you about direct payments **for carers**, what they can be used for and how to find out if you can get them. You might need some help with it.



## What are direct payments?

If you get help from social services as a carer, you can apply for direct payments.

These let you choose and buy the services you need yourself, instead of getting them from the council.

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## How you can use direct payments



A person must have been assessed as being eligible for a direct payment.



It must be used to buy the support you have been assessed as needing. This will be shown in your support plan.



The direct payment for a carer could be used to take part in a relaxation class or be put towards the cost of an adult education class.



You may want to employ a personal assistant to help. For more information about this contact us.



## How do I get a direct payment?

You will have a carer's assessment to see if you can get support from the council.



If you can get ongoing support you can ask for a direct payment.



You will need to show how this money will be used to support your needs.



## How do I get my direct payment?

We like to give you your direct payment on a Kent Card.



A Kent Card is like a debit card but has a set amount of money put on it.



You manage the card to buy the support you need.



You can also have the direct payment sent to a bank account.



## What do I have to do with a direct payment?

With support and information most people can manage direct payments.



You will need to keep records and receipts of what you have spent your direct payment on.

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## Where can I get more information?



You can find more on our website at:  
[www.kentdp.co.uk](http://www.kentdp.co.uk)



Our Direct Payments Support Team can give information on getting and using direct payments. Help they can give may include: employing a personal assistant, self employed personal assistants and information on direct payments.



## What to do next

If you want more information you can contact your local carer's organisation or contact the Direct Payments Team on 03000 413600 email: [direct.payments@kent.gov.uk](mailto:direct.payments@kent.gov.uk)

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This publication is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

Please ask you care/case manager for details or call 03000 41 61 61