

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.

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.

Where can I get more information?



You can find more on our website at:
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

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