

# A GUIDE TO DIRECT PAYMENTS EASY READ



Kent County Council Adult Social Care and Health





## What are direct payments?

Direct payments are money paid from Kent County Council to you if you get help from adult social care.



You can use the money to arrange your own support.



You can have a direct payment and a service given to you by the council.



Direct payments do not affect any benefits or pensions that you may get.

# What can you use a direct payment for?

You can use direct payments to pay for:



- care and support in your home



- short breaks and respite



- getting out and about



- support for carers



- employing a personal assistant



- equipment which helps you live independently.



## How do I get a direct payment?

If you get help from adult social care, ask your social care contact.



If you do not have a social care, contact you will need to contact the council to see if you can get support from us.

Someone will see if you are eligible for support.



If you can get support, you can be given a direct payment.



You can have the direct payment on a Kent Card.

A Kent Card is like a bank payment card.  
The direct payment is paid onto it.



You manage this money and use it to buy your support.

It is not a credit card – you cannot get into debt.



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

You manage this money and use it to buy your support.

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## What do direct payments Involve?



Most people can manage a direct payment with the right support and information.



You will need to complete a care and support plan/support plan.

Your social care contact can help you with this.



The plan shows how you will use your direct payment to meet your care and support needs.



You will need to keep records and receipts to show how you have spent your direct payments.



If you must make a financial contribution, this will pay for the first part of the care. KCC will contribute the balance of the personal budget.



If you chose to have all your personal budget as a direct payment your contribution will need to be paid into the direct payment account. Without this you will not have enough money to pay for the support you need.

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### **For more information:**

If you need any help or information contact the Direct Payment Support Team: 03000 413 600

Or visit our website:  
[www.kent.gov.uk/careandsupport](http://www.kent.gov.uk/careandsupport)



If you would like a direct payment, contact your social care contacts.

If you need an assessment to see if you can get help from adult social care contact us on 03000 41 61 61.

This publication is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages. Please ask your social care contact for details or call 03000 41 61 61.