

What are Direct payments?



hello

This booklet tells you about direct payments, 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?



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 care manager.



If you do not have a care manager 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.

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 care manager 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 have to 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 of 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 you support you need.



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

If you would like a direct payment, contact your Care Manager.



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