

Carers Information Service
0300 0200 002
www.carmarthenshirecarers.org.uk

Direct Payments

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Direct Payments

A Direct Payment is a payment that can be made to people who are eligible to receive community care services from Social Services who would prefer to arrange their own services.

Direct Payments make it possible for you to buy the services that you have been assessed as needing, in a way that gives you greater choice and control. Direct Payments also allows for another suitable person to act on your behalf if needed. You can decide how your needs will be met, by whom and at a time that suits you.

You will have a wider choice of services as well as real control over your life - you will be managing your own care package. Direct Payments help give people the opportunity to live as independently as possible.

Where this factsheet refers to the person needing care, it may refer also to another suitable person who may act on behalf of the individual requiring care.

Who can receive Direct Payments?

Direct Payments can be offered to people who are eligible to receive Social Care Services.

People who are eligible include those people who have been assessed by the local authority as having eligible care and support needs, or in case of carers having support needs.

This may include:

- People with physical disabilities.
- People with sensory impairment.
- People with learning disabilities.
- People with long-term illness.
- People with mental health conditions.
- Carers and Young Carers of people with needs as described above.
- Elderly people who need community care services.
- Adults with parental responsibility for a child who has a disability.

What can I use a Direct Payment for?

Direct Payments can only be spent on services to meet the needs described in your assessment and detailed in your care and support plan, or in the case of carers, their support plan.

You can use your Direct Payments to buy community care services such as:

- To help with personal care such as washing, dressing and eating meals.
- Practical help and support with activities.
- Respite care.

You cannot use Direct Payments for health or housing services.

What are the benefits?

- You can choose how your needs will be met.
- You can choose who provides the services.
- You can receive services at a time that suits you.
- You will receive help and support to manage the scheme.

What would my responsibilities be?

You will be responsible for managing the way that your Direct Payments are spent in accordance with a contract which you would agree with the Local Authority.

If you employ a Personal Assistant directly, you will have the responsibilities of an employer.

You may employ anyone as long as they promote your well-being.

Will I need to keep records?

Yes, the money you receive as a Direct Payment is for services to meet your social care needs. It remains public money, you must spend it on services to meet your care needs. When you start the scheme you will be told what records to keep and what information you will be expected to provide.

If you are worried that you might not be able to manage Direct Payments on your own you can get help. An adviser from the Direct Payments support scheme can offer you advice and support with this, and assist you with recruitment and managing staff.

How much money will I get?

This depends on an assessment of how much and what type of assistance you need. Your care plan will state the number of hours per week you need and how much this will cost.

Will I have to pay anything?

You may be asked to make a contribution towards the cost of your care. This will be the same whether the services are arranged for you by Carmarthenshire County Council or whether you choose Direct Payments.

You will be entitled to have a financial assessment (means test) and the results of this will determine how much you will be asked to contribute.

Will Direct Payments affect my benefits?

No, Direct Payments do not affect your benefits at all and they are not classed as income for tax purposes.

What do I have to do to get Direct Payments?

You can find out about the Direct Payments Scheme through:

- Social Care Teams.
- Diverse Cymru.

A Social Worker will visit you to talk about your situation and the help that you require. This is called an assessment. Once you have been assessed as having social care needs, a Care and Support Plan will be arranged and your social worker will discuss the option of Direct Payments.

Carmarthenshire County Council commissions a support scheme to help people to manage their Direct Payments if required. Currently this support scheme is Diverse Cymru which is an organisation committed to enabling disabled people to live independently by providing support, advice and information. If you decide you would like to receive Direct Payments and the support of Diverse Cymru, an Adviser from the organisation will visit you to discuss the Scheme.

For further information:

If you would like to find out more about Direct Payments:

Contact your Social Worker or Occupational Therapist (if you have one) or if you would like to receive an assessment of your care needs you can contact Dewis Sir Gâr (previously called Careline) on 0300 333 2222 or by Minicom on:01554 756741or by SMS: 0789 2345678 or by making a referral through their website:

www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/Socialcare

Or you could contact the Direct Payments support scheme: Diverse Cymru

Carmarthenshire County Council Dewis Sir Gâr (previously called Careline)

To request Direct Payments, speak to your social worker.

0300 333 2222

www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales

Diverse Cymru

Support service for recipients of Direct Payments.

01267 245579

westwalesdp@diverse.cymru

www.diverseccymru.org.uk/

Factsheet Information	
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Carmarthenshire Carers Information Service

The Carers Information Service provides free and confidential information, advice and support to Carers.

We produce and distribute information for carers and organise regular events in partnership with other organisations.

The service is joint funded by Carmarthenshire County Council and Hywel Dda University Health Board.

Contact details

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