

How can I find out more?

Direct Payments offer great flexibility and by accepting them you take on the responsibility for managing the money and arranging support that meets your needs.

Your Care Manager/Care Co-ordinator (if you have one) or the Direct Payment Support Service can explain these responsibilities in more detail and discuss with you what level of support you may need to manage your Direct Payment.

If you would like to consider receiving Direct Payments, the Direct Payment Support Service or your Care Manager/Care Co-ordinator (if you have one) can give you more detailed information and how Direct Payments could work for you.

Please contact:

Direct Payments Support Service

Enterprise House,
Valley Street North,
Darlington
DL1 1GY
Tel: 01325 360524
E-mail: mail@darlingtondisability.org
Website: www.darlingtondisability.org

Your Care Manager or Adult and Children's Social Care

Central House
Gladstone Street,
Darlington
DL3 6JX
Tel: 01325 346200
Website www.darlington.gov.uk/adultservices

Translation

This document will be made available on request to Adult Social Care in Braille, large print, audio or in other languages.

আপনি যদি এই প্রকাশনার কপি ইংরেজি ছাড়া অন্য কোন ভাষায় চান তাহলে সোশাল সার্ভিসেস বিভাগের সাথে 01325 346 200 নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করুন।

如果您需要本出版物除英文以外的版本，请与社会服务部联系：01325 346200。

گر آپ کو انگریزی کے علاوہ کسی دوسری زبان میں یہ معلومات درکار ہیں تو سوشل سروسز ڈیپارٹمنٹ میں اس ٹیلیفون نمبر 01325 346200 پر رابطہ قائم کیجئے۔



BRaille



Date of Issue – 23/03/2011

Ref – G7



Produced by **Xentrall** Design & Print
dcom0159

My Life -
It's about
me...

DIRECT PAYMENTS
support you control

What are Direct Payments?

Every Council has a duty to offer money to people who are assessed as being eligible for community care services, instead of arranging services for them. Money given in this way is known as a Direct Payment.

Direct Payments are one way of receiving your personal budget and directing your own support.

Why would I want a Direct Payment?

Direct Payments give you more freedom to make decisions and to take control of your own life and be in charge of your own support arrangements, giving you choice, control and flexibility. That means getting the assistance **when** you want it, **how** you want it and from the person or organisation/provider you have **chosen** to give it.

With Direct Payments, you can still buy support from the same organisation/provider you have always used. The difference is that Direct Payments put **you** in control. You deal with them directly so that they provide you with support that best suits you and your assessed needs.

You can also choose to employ your own staff to provide the support you need.

Direct Payments in Darlington

Can I receive Direct Payments?

To receive a Direct Payment you must:

- Have been assessed as needing support from Adult or Children's Social Care.
- Be able to consent to and manage the Direct Payment (with as much support as you need).
- If you are not able to consent to a Direct Payment, there needs to be a "suitable person", who can do this on your behalf. (Your Care Manager will be able to give more information about this).

Who can help me with Direct Payments?

Some people may want to manage their Direct Payment themselves or with support from their families or friends. For those who need support to set up or manage their Direct Payment, Darlington Association on Disability (DAD) offers a Support Service which includes:

- Information and support to set up and manage your Direct Payment
- Training for users of Direct Payments
- Regular newsletter
- Help with completing monitoring forms
- Support to people who wish to employ their own Personal Assistants

- Help to employ the right staff, for example writing job descriptions, advertising, interviewing and carrying out employment checks
- A Payroll Service that can work out your Personal Assistant's wages, Tax and National Insurance or support you to do this yourself
- Information on training opportunities for Personal Assistants
- Develop support to users of Direct Payments in the Direct Payments Peer Support Group
- Help for Direct Payments users in Involvement Forums.

DAD will provide you with as much or as little support as you need.

