

What is a Direct Payment?

A Direct Payment is a way of meeting your assessed care needs instead of your care manager arranging for care to be delivered by the Council. With a Direct Payment they give you the money to meet your needs as you choose. From 2003 care managers must offer you a Direct Payment when they carry out an assessment.

A Direct Payment gives you choice, control, flexibility and more independence when arranging your care. To receive a Direct Payment you must give your consent. You cannot be given a Direct Payment if you do not want one.

If you wish, you can have a Direct Payment to pay for some of your care and allow your care manager to arrange the remaining care. This is a good way to see if a Direct Payment is really what you want. You can stop a Direct Payment at any time and ask your care manager to send you a carer.

Who can be my carer?

You can choose a friend, neighbour or someone who has been recommended to be your carer. You can use your Direct Payment to pay a carer from an agency or to employ someone yourself. A close family member who lives with you cannot be paid using a Direct Payment except in exceptional circumstances.

Who can have a Direct Payment?

Anyone over the age of 16 who has been assessed as needing help can have a Direct Payment. Parents of a disabled child can receive a direct payment to pay for care for their child.

What can I use a Direct Payment for?

A Direct Payment should be available for any care within your Care Plan. Ask your care manager for more details. A Direct Payment cannot be used to replace services supplied by the NHS or by the Housing Authority.

Can I have help with my Direct Payment?

Yes. WDPSS has a contract with Wiltshire County Council to support anyone receiving a Direct Payment in Wiltshire. We offer help in the following ways:

A **Direct Payment Advisor** will explain how the Direct Payment Scheme in Wiltshire works and the implications of someone employing their own Personal Assistant e.g. paying tax, national insurance, insurance etc. They will support you to find a carer and will help draw up an advertisement, if necessary. They will help with your record keeping and provide training for you to become more independent with this.

The **Payroll Worker** will calculate tax and national insurance and tell you how much to pay your employees, if are not able to do this yourself.

Are there any rules?

You will be asked to open a bank account specifically for the Direct Payment to be paid into. You will need to complete forms to show how you have spent the money and to send them, with your bank statements, to the direct payments finance team at Wiltshire County Council.

Can I have a Direct Payment and my benefits?

Yes. You can have both. A Direct Payment is not a benefit. It is a means of receiving your care.

How do I get a Direct Payment?

Ask your care manager. They will help you and make a referral to WDPSS if you decide to proceed with the Direct Payment.

Where can I get more information?

- Ask your care manager for more information on how you can use a Direct Payment.
- Look at the WDPSS website (www.compassdisability.org.uk and follow the links)
- Contact us to receive this leaflet in accessible formats (large print, easy read, tape)

Wiltshire Direct Payment Support Service
Unit 11 -12, Belvedere Trading Estate
Taunton, TA1 1BH
Tel: 0844 984 2828



DIRECT PAYMENTS IN WILTSHIRE