

# Direct payments (adult services) – arranging your own care

## What are direct payments?

Direct payments give you more choice and control over how you organise your life. Instead of providing you with services you need, social services will give you money so that you can purchase the services you have been assessed as needing. You decide what services you use, and who you will get them from, at a time that is best for you.

## Who can receive direct payments?

Direct payments can be offered to:

- people with physical, sensory or learning disabilities
- older people
- people disabled by illness such as mental illness, arthritis or HIV/AIDS;
- and carers aged 16 and over.

You can receive direct payments from social services as long as you:

- live in Luton
- have been assessed as needing services
- are willing to receive direct payments
- can demonstrate that you are able to manage direct payments with or without assistance.

## What can I use direct payments for?

You can use direct payments to arrange all the services you have been assessed as needing, for example:

- personal care such as support with having a bath, washing or getting dressed.
- support to help you do sports or leisure activities

**If you need this in large print, on tape or in**

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**0800 043 3335**

**Further details and advice on this subject are available from:**

[www.luton.gov.uk/directpayments](http://www.luton.gov.uk/directpayments)

[sdcs@luton.gov.uk](mailto:sdcs@luton.gov.uk)

**SDCT, LBC  
PO Box 1259  
Social Services  
Luton LU1 9FP**

**Tel: 0800 043 3335**

- a short break
- support during the day instead of going to a day centre
- support to live in your own home instead of living in a care home
- you can get your own support worker, sometimes called a personal assistant, instead of using services
- to buy equipment
- to assist you in your paid or voluntary work
- or a combination of these services.

### **What can direct payments NOT be used for?**

There are a number of services that you cannot use direct payments for. Social services will let you know what you can and can't spend the money on.

### **Will direct payments affect my social security payments?**

No. Direct payments will not be taken into account when working out social security benefits which are related to your income. Direct payments replace the services that social services would otherwise provide. The Inland Revenue do not regard direct payments as taxable income.

### **What responsibilities will I have?**

You are responsible for:

- arranging services that you have been assessed as needing
- recording and showing how you have used the money
- setting up a bank account specifically for regular receipts of direct payments
- Employing staff such as a personal assistant and the legal responsibilities of an employer.

### **How do I get direct payments?**

If you are interested in direct payments speak to your social worker or the person you are in contact with in social services or ring the Self Directed Care team on 0800 043 3335 who will provide you with advice, information, practical help and support.