



Adult Social Services & Housing

A Guide to Direct Payments for Parents of Disabled Children

What are direct payments?

If you are the parent of a disabled child under the age of 18 and you and your family have been assessed by Bath and North East Somerset social services as needing a service, you could receive cash payments to arrange and purchase your own support. This is known as a direct payment.

Who can get a direct payment?

- Disabled people (16+) to meet their own needs
- Parents of a disabled child under 18: to meet the family's needs
- Carers (caring for someone over 18) to meet their own needs as carers

What services can I purchase with a direct payment?

You can purchase any service that you have been assessed as needing with the exception of permanent residential care.

Examples may include:

- Personal assistance in daily living
- Day services
- Short term breaks (respite)
- Live-in care

Who can I employ with a direct payment?

Direct payments can be used to employ your own staff. You may wish to advertise or alternatively you could employ a friend, neighbour or a relative who is **not living** within the same household.

You cannot employ:

- Your partner- this includes husband, wife, heterosexual or same sex partner (unless exceptional circumstances)
- Anyone else living in the same household

Criminal Record Bureau checks

It is the expectation of Bath and North East Somerset Social Services that Criminal Record Bureau checks are undertaken on anyone you intend to employ through a direct payment to work with your child.

Can I get support in managing my direct payment?

Yes, the Direct Payments Support Service offers ongoing support and advice to people receiving a direct payment: 0117 903 8900

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the benefits of a direct payment?

Many people who choose to receive a direct payment state that they have far greater choice, control and flexibility over the services they arrange to meet their assessed needs.

What if I do not wish to manage the money?

If you do not wish to be involved in the financial management of direct payments, the Direct Payments Support Service can manage the direct payment finances on your behalf.

What if I do not want to continue to receive a direct payment?

Opting for a direct payment does not mean that you have to stay on the scheme. You can opt out of the scheme at any point. You should discuss this with your social worker.

How can I take part in the service?

To take part in the scheme you should have your needs assessed by a social worker. To ask for an assessment please contact: 01225 825307. If you have already had an assessment, talk to your social worker about taking part in the scheme.

This document/publication/leaflet about 'A Guide to Direct Payment for Parents of Disabled Children' can be made available in a range of community languages, large print, Braille, on tape, electronic and accessible formats from the Information Officer (information_officer@bathnes.gov.uk) - Tel (01225 477983) Minicom (01225 477043)