



# Introduction to Direct Payments

## What are Direct Payments?

Direct payments are payments, which are available for people who qualify for social care from the council.

Rather than the council arranging services for you, Direct Payments give you more choice and control to arrange and manage the support you need to help you with everyday living needs.

## Do I qualify?

You can receive Direct Payments if you:

- are aged 16 or over
- qualify for social care assistance from the council following a Needs Assessment
- already receive help from us and want to change to Direct Payments.

## How can I apply?

You need to complete a Support Plan with your care manager or social worker. This will set out what you want to achieve and what help you might need to do this.

Your social worker will assess the total amount of money required to pay for the help you need.

They will use this figure (your Personal Budget) to work out how much your monthly Direct Payment needs to be. This will be different for every individual.



## What can I use Direct Payments for?

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You can only spend Direct Payments on help or services that meet your needs and agreed goals, as set out in your Support Plan. These might include help with:

- personal care, such as washing and dressing
- practical things, such as shopping, cleaning or help at work
- getting around and communicating
- buying daily living equipment
- taking a short break (respite care)
- taking part in education, training or leisure activities.



## Will I need to pay anything?

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You may need to pay a contribution towards your Direct Payment amount.

We will do a financial assessment based on your savings and any other income you receive to work out this amount.

You do not have to make a contribution if you receive Direct Payments only for equipment.

## Carers Direct Payments

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You may be entitled to Carers Direct Payments if you are the carer of an elderly or disabled person in Barnet and you help them for 20 hours or more a week.

This payment can be used to meet your personal needs as a carer, for example:

- training courses
- a holiday or break
- household items such as a washing machine
- swimming sessions.

You do not need to pay a contribution towards Carers Direct Payments.

## More information

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To find out more about Direct Payments, contact:

### Social Care Direct

1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Building 4, North London  
Business Park, Oakleigh Road South,  
London N11 1NP

Tel: 020 8359 5000

Mobile text: 07506 593707

Email: [socialcaredirect@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:socialcaredirect@barnet.gov.uk)

[www.barnet.gov.uk/direct\\_payments](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/direct_payments)

You can find out about using Direct Payments to employ a Personal Assistant in the other leaflets in this series (DP2, DP3, DP4, DP5).