



Independence is...

Direct Payments

PeoplePlus aims to do everything we can to enable people to live independently in their own homes and communities. **We put people first. It is in our name, our ethos and our services.**



Payroll
services



Manage
accounts



Become
an
employer



Recruit a
personal
assistant



Information
advice &
guidance



PeoplePlus
skills for growth

What is a Direct Payment?

The aim of Direct Payments is to provide flexibility in the provision of social care services. By local authorities giving money to people in need of support, rather than directly provided social care services, Direct Payments gives people a greater control over their lives and how their care is delivered by promoting independence, choice and inclusion.

Direct payments can be used to meet your personal care needs as well as practical household tasks, social activities and attending appointments. How you spend your direct payment should reflect what has been agreed in your social care assessment and support plan.

How can I get a direct payment?

You will need to have an assessment from your local authority. This is usually undertaken by a social worker. If the assessment shows you are eligible for support, the social worker who carries out your assessment will ask you if you would like a direct payment. If you already receive care and/or support provided via your local authority and would like to consider a direct payment instead, you should speak to your allocated or duty social worker.

Do I have to pay for direct payments?

There is no charge for choosing direct payments. You may, however, have a financial assessment to determine whether you need to pay a contribution to your care package. This is part of the government's Fairer Charging policy. Your social worker will inform you whether this applies to you.

What can direct payments be used for?

Monies paid as a direct payment for your care and support should be used to meet your assessed need and outcomes. This can include:

- Employing a person to support you to live independently. This person is commonly known as a personal assistant.
- Choosing a care agency with the right skills, flexibility and experience to support you accessing community activities
- Purchasing assistive technology

What support is available?

PeoplePlus Independent Living Services are proud to work in partnership with people who receive social care and/or health funding to meet their care needs. Independence matters; our skilled advisers are empowering, solution focused meaning you can maximise your funding and live the life you choose. We provide personalised support for you to manage all aspects of your direct payment, including:

- Understanding what direct payments can be used for and how you report on monies spent
- Support planning and brokerage
- Recruiting and employing a personal assistant
- Choosing a care agency
- Payroll services for those who choose to employ personal assistants
- Managed accounts if you require a higher level of financial support
- Skills workshops to enable you to manage as much of your direct payment as possible
- Ongoing advice and guidance around employment issues.

We also work with partners who can provide DBS checks for potential employees as well as offer legally required Employer's Liability Insurance should you choose to become an employer.



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