



North

Yorkshire County Council

Direct Payments

What you need to know

February 2013



Health and Adult Services

A responsive County Council providing excellent and efficient local services

Direct Payments and Personal Budgets

A personal budget is money we can give you if you have had an assessment that shows you need social care support. You can use the money to buy the services and support you need.

You will know how much money you have to spend and you will be able to choose how you want to spend it.

Using your personal budget

You can choose to get your personal budget in any of the following three ways.

1. We can give you all the money for your care and you choose and arrange the support you need. This is called a 'direct payment'.
2. We can hold the money for you and arrange all the services for you. This is called a 'managed personal budget'.

3. Or, you can use a mixture of the two. This would mean you can have some of your budget as a direct payment, and we would manage the rest of your budget.

Direct Payments are not seen as income and have no effect on tax, or any benefits you might also receive.

The aim of Direct Payments is to give you more control over the support you receive and a greater choice and flexibility about how your needs are met.

What are the advantages of having a Direct Payment?

Having a Direct Payment means you can make your own choices about how your support needs are met and have more control over your life. It also gives you the opportunity to do things for yourself, with support available if you need it.

If you have a Direct Payment you will be personally responsible for how the money is used but you can get help with managing the Direct Payment.

Who can get Direct Payments?

You can get a Direct Payment if you:

- live in North Yorkshire or are caring for someone living in North Yorkshire, and;
- are aged 16 or over;
- have had a needs assessment by North Yorkshire County Council which showed that you need support; and
- are willing and able to accept a Direct Payment or have someone who is willing and able to receive and manage a Direct Payment on your behalf. We call this individual a “suitable person”.

What can I use my Direct Payment for?

The great thing about a Direct Payment is that you can use it in creative, innovative ways to get the support you want, when and how you want it.

The best way to show what a Direct Payment can be used for is to look at how other people spend theirs. For example, here are just a few of the ways people are spending their Direct Payments:

- Some people employ a personal assistant to help out with daily tasks – they can choose what day and time the assistant comes to suit them best.
- Some people pay to do their own activities in the day, instead of the more traditional day care services run by North Yorkshire County Council. How about swimming, or joining a creative writing class?



“ Eileen has motor neurone disease and uses her Direct Payment to get support from the person she wants – in this case, Maddy, who only lives a few doors away. They can be flexible in their arrangements, which is also good for Maddy as she can fit her work around her children’s needs. She helps Eileen with dressing, chores and preparing meals. ”



“Andrew has a range of complex health needs and uses his Direct Payment to employ people to help him continue to live independently.”

- Some people buy pieces of equipment to help them to continue to live in their own home.
- You can use your Direct Payment to meet all of your assessed care needs, or in combination with traditional services arranged by North Yorkshire County Council.

Is there anything I can't spend my Direct Payment on?

Although a Direct Payment is very flexible, there are a few things that it can't be spent on. These are:

- permanent residential or nursing care;
- any services or goods that haven't been agreed with your social care worker and included on your Support Plan;
- employing a close relative who lives with you;
- support provided by North Yorkshire County Council (or any other local authority); and
- household bills, clothes, food and housing.

“Liz cares full time for her daughter who has mental health difficulties. Liz uses her Direct Payment to fund a creative writing course to help her relax. Liz says, “It challenges me, and keeps my brain going!”

How could it help my carer?

Your carer may be able to get a Direct Payment to help them carry on caring for you. This could be to pay for practical things, like a mobile phone so they can stay in touch with you, or it could pay for things to help them relax and take a break, like gym membership.

What support is available to help me with a Direct Payment?

Legislation on Direct Payments states that people who are interested in receiving Direct Payments should have access to good quality information, advice and support when considering or receiving Direct Payments. In North Yorkshire we can offer comprehensive support to you if you are considering or already receiving a Direct Payment.

Our aim is to promote and encourage independence and choice, so we can help you by providing:

- Information on Direct Payments.
- Assistance with setting up a bank account so you can manage your Direct Payments.
- Advice on the responsibilities of being an employer including assistance with the recruitment of Personal Assistants.
- Access to an Employment Law Service and a Payroll Service.
- Help to create and maintain the paperwork you will need.
- Information about specialist organisations who can offer specific advice and support.
- Assistance with budgeting your Direct Payment
- Support with any administrative or practical tasks associated with your Direct Payment

- Support and advice about what to do in the event of an emergency.

What happens once my Direct Payment is up and running?

You'll need to show your social care worker that you are spending the money as agreed and be able to show receipts for the things you have bought. Your social care worker will review your situation with you regularly, so if it isn't working out you don't need to worry – you and your social care worker can talk about doing things differently.

I'm interested, how could I get started?

If you already have a social care worker, please contact them and they will be able to talk to you about Direct Payments.

If you haven't yet been in touch with Health and Adult Services please contact the North Yorkshire County Council Customer Services Centre on **0845 034 9410**.

All you'll need to start is to have a bank account that will only be used for Direct Payment transactions. You may need to set up a new bank account to do this.

Can I get information about Direct Payments in another format?

Yes. You can request this leaflet in a different format, such as large print, Braille or audio tape by ringing the North Yorkshire County Council Customer Services Centre on **0845 034 9410** or visit our website, **www.northyorks.gov.uk** and type "Direct Payments" into the search box on the home page.

Contact us

**North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton,
North Yorkshire, DL7 8AD**

Our Customer Service Centre (social care enquiries) is open Monday to Friday
8.00am - 5.30pm and Saturday 9.00am - 5pm (closed bank holidays).

Tel: **0845 034 9410** email: **social.care@northyorks.gov.uk**

Or visit our website at: **www.northyorks.gov.uk**

If you would like this information in another language or format
such as Braille, large print or audio, please ask us.

Tel: 01609 532917 Email: communications@northyorks.gov.uk

