

What can direct payments offer me?

Incontrol
Flexibility
Choice
Support
PAs
Agencies
Day care
Independence



Why a Direct Payment?

Direct Payments can transform lives, giving recipients more independence, flexibility and choice.

Independence – Having a Direct Payment will give you greater independence

Flexibility – You can manage your care to fit in with your schedule

Choice – You get to choose who delivers your care and how it is delivered

Payments will be linked to assessed eligible needs as determined by your Assessment and Support Plan.

One of the most exciting aspects of Direct Payments is their adaptability. You are in control of how your care is provided.

Flexibility is an essential part of Direct Payments, and they can also be used as part of a combined package. For example, part of a care package can be provided through a commissioned service, such as a Day Centre, while other parts can be through Direct Payments such as a Personal Assistants, enabling someone to live independently and choose their own support.

Who can manage the Direct Payment?

You can either manage the Direct Payment yourself, but if you do not want to, or are unable to, a relative or friend can manage it on your behalf.

Personal Assistants

Many people use their Direct Payment to obtain help from a Personal Assistant. Finding the right people for you is the secret of success, but can be the hardest part.

There are many ways that people have successfully found Personal Assistants:

- Via Glos Assistance website <https://www.glosassistants.org.uk/>
- Job Centre advert
- Advertising in a local paper
- Local Church advert
- Noticeboard in local University or College
- Local sports club (if you have a particular interest)
- Word of mouth/recommendation

Tip: Interview as many people as possible to get the right 'fit' (some people prefer to do this away from their house) and be clear about what you want the Personal Assistant to do for you.

Self-employed or employed Personal Assistants

If the Personal Assistant you find is self-employed, they will simply give you an invoice for payment for the hours they have worked.

If the Personal Assistant you find is not self-employed, you or the person managing the Direct Payment will need to become their employer. This may sound complicated but you will be given lots of support – you will not be on your own.

We will pay for someone to give you employment advice and run payroll. You will need to ensure that timesheets are completed and sent to the Support Provider in a timely manner, and the Direct Payments team are only a call or click away if you need our help.

This leaflet is designed to give a taste of how a Direct Payment could work for you. For more information please ask your Social Worker or Social Care Practitioner to pass your details to the Direct Payment team and we would be delighted go through things in more detail with you.