

# DIRECT PAYMENTS



from Bromley Council

**Do you want:**



**more  
freedom?**



**increased  
flexibility?**



**greater  
choice?**



**control over  
your care?**

**Then direct payments  
may be for you!**

This guide will help you understand more about direct payments, what they can be used for and the benefit they can make to your life.

**[www.bromley.gov.uk/directpayments](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/directpayments)**

# What is a direct payment?

A direct payment is **money** that we can pay to you if you are eligible to receive care and support from us.

To work out if you are **eligible**, we will complete an **assessment of your needs**. This will be either:

- a **care assessment** if you have care and support needs, or
- a **carer's assessment** if you are an informal carer of a parent, disabled child, relative, partner or a friend or neighbour

Following the assessment, we will discuss with you what support you require to **meet your identified needs** and the **amount of money** required to meet those needs (following a financial assessment). This allocated money will become your **personal budget**.

## How do we work out your personal budget?

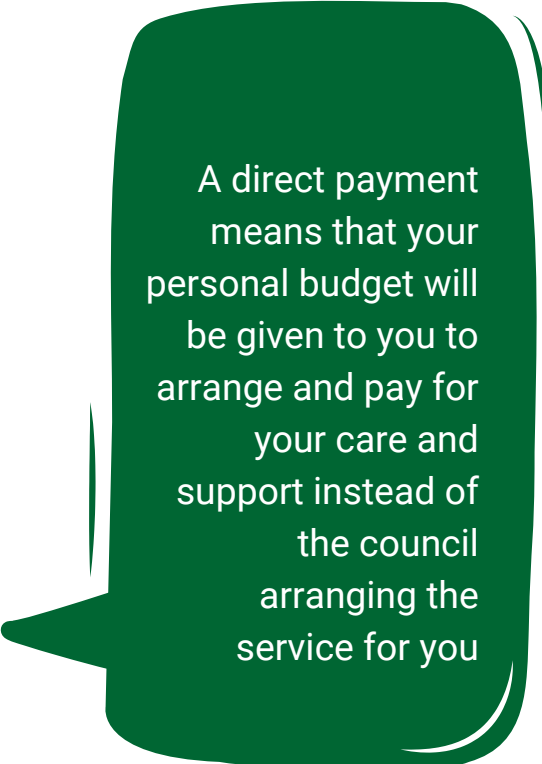
To assess whether you are **eligible for Council funded support** to meet your identified care needs, we will ask you to **complete a financial assessment**.

The financial assessment will identify if:

- you are eligible for Council funded support and
- if you are eligible, whether you need to make a **financial contribution** towards your personal budget

Your personal budget will set out how much we will pay towards your identified care needs.

**You can choose to take this personal budget as a direct payment.**



A direct payment means that your personal budget will be given to you to arrange and pay for your care and support instead of the council arranging the service for you

# Who can receive a direct payment?

You can choose to take a direct payment if you are:



**Aged 16 or over** and have -

- a physical disability
- a learning disability
- a sensory disability
- a long term medical condition
- mental health support needs



A **carer** who has had  
a carer's assessment



A **parent or carer**  
of a disabled child

## What happens next?

Once your direct payment is agreed we will talk to you about what you want to **achieve** and the different ways that your personal budget, including your direct payment, can be used to **support your needs**.

This will be signed off in your **support plan**.

Your support needs and financial contribution will be **reviewed** each year or when a change happens to your situation.

## How are direct payments paid?

Payments are paid **directly into an account every 4 weeks**.

This account must be used just for the direct payment. We will audit this account. You must be willing and able to manage:

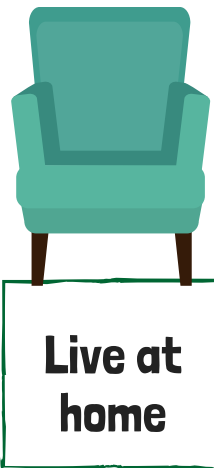
- The care arrangements you choose
- The direct payment bank account
- Monitoring the payments you made

If this feels challenging or a worry for you, you can have a **Nominated Person**. This is someone you nominate to manage your care and direct payment account for you. *Speak to us for more details.*

# What can I use direct payments for?

In your support plan we will agree how you want to spend your direct payments.

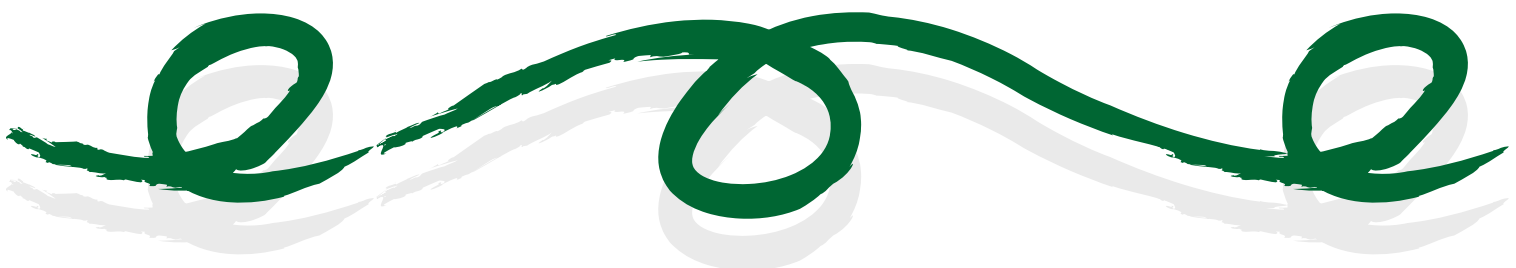
This could be to:



**Receive care  
in the way  
you choose**



**Have a say on how  
you live your life as  
independently  
as possible**

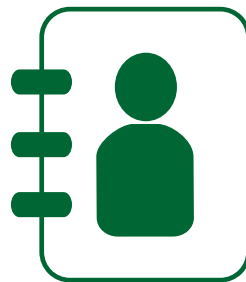


If you spend your direct payments on care in your home you may:



Be an employer, so you can decide who you employ and when

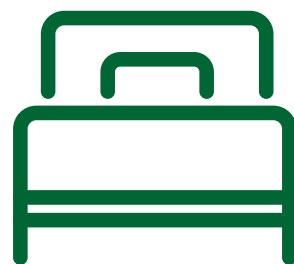
This cannot usually be someone who lives with you



Arrange to purchase support from a private care agency



Use our services to assist you with the employment, payments and to help monitor your direct payments



Get financial help towards some types of specialist equipment not supplied by the council



For information about Personal Budgets for Education, please talk to your Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) coordinator



# Be inspired...

Read about how some of our residents are using their direct payment across Bromley.



**MR K**

I employ my own Personal Assistant so they can take me to watch my favourite football team



**MRS T**

I use my direct payment to employ my neighbour so they can help me with preparing my meals and managing my medication

I use my direct payment to attend an Adult Education class with somebody to help. I love learning something new and talking to people



**MS A**



**MR M**

I chose and employed my own personal assistant to provide my personal care. This has helped me to stay independent at home



## What to do next?

Speak to us for more advice and guidance to help you make the right choice:

- visit [www.bromley.gov.uk/directpayments](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/directpayments)
- call **020 8461 7777**
- e-mail [\*\*Adult.Early.Intervention@bromley.gov.uk\*\*](mailto:Adult.Early.Intervention@bromley.gov.uk)

### Have you thought about a Lasting Power of Attorney?

If not, it is a good idea to think about your Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA), sooner rather than later. Having an LPA does not mean you lose control.

Want know more? Visit [\*\*www.gov.uk/lpa\*\*](http://www.gov.uk/lpa) or call **0300 456 0300**.

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