

What are Direct Payments?

CAMBRIDGESHIRE
Learning Disability



Information

for people with learning disabilities



Cambridgeshire
County Council

Cambridgeshire **NHS**

This leaflet tells you a bit about Direct Payments. Some people find it a bit hard to understand at first.

Cambridgeshire PASS will visit you to explain everything. Their contact details are:-

Telephone:
01473 239489

Website:
www.cambspass.org.uk

Information

for people with learning disabilities

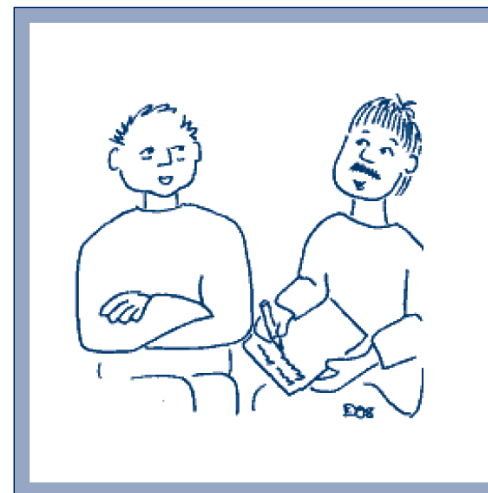
What are Direct Payments?



Everyone is different and has different needs.

The Learning Disability Partnership supports adults with learning disabilities in Cambridgeshire.

To find out if we can help you, a Care Manager will talk to you. This is called an assessment of your needs. They will decide if you are eligible for our help.

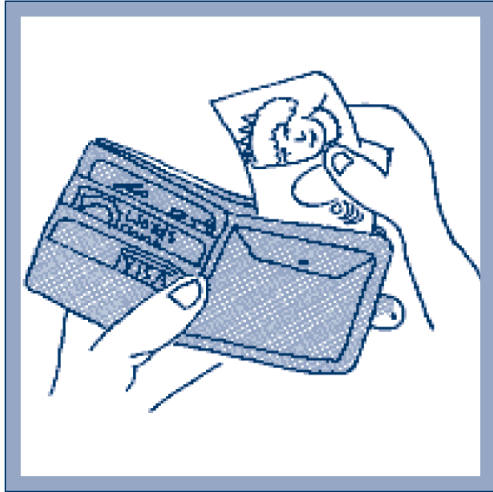


One way to support you is to get an organisation or agency to provide the things you need like:

- help with personal care.
- help with living on your own.
- having things to do during the day.
- a short break to give families a rest.

Direct Payments is another way to make sure you get the support you need. It is your choice if you want to have direct payments. You may need help to manage them.

A Direct Payment is giving you the money to buy your care and support.



Having a Direct Payment means you:

- are in control
- choose your own staff
- choose when you have your support.
- choose where and how you have a respite break

You might need someone to help you to manage your direct payments – but this is OK. A support organisation called Cambridgeshire PASS is available to talk to you about direct payments and how you can manage them. The telephone number is at the end of this booklet.



There are lots of different ways of getting the support you need to manage direct payments. You may like to ask a friend or relative to help you. Some people have a group of friends and relatives who help them to think about planning for their life – this is sometimes called a “circle of support”. Some of the people from your circle, if you have one, could help you to manage your direct payments.

Some people even set up a Trust to manage their direct payments for them. There is a separate leaflet to tell you about Trusts.

Ask your Care Manager for this information. It does not matter which way you manage your direct payments.

What can I use my Direct Payment for?

The Care Manager who does your assessment will write out a list. This list has the things on it to meet your needs. It is called a Care Plan. This list shows what you can use your direct payment on. The amount of your direct payment will depend on your needs and how much it will cost to provide that type of support.

The list might include help:

- in your home
- with personal care
- to be independent
- to have a short break (respite)
- to do activities during the day



You might be able to use the money to:

- pay an agency to support you
- employ your own staff
- pay for short breaks in a place or way you choose



If you decide to employ your own staff, Cambridgeshire PASS will help you with everything you need to do to be a good employer.

As an employer you will need to:

- find staff
- give them a contract
- pay them wages
- make tax and National Insurance payments.



(National Insurance and Income tax are payments which have to be given to the government)



The Rowan organisation will help you with all of these things.

You will be able to use the Direct Payment to pay for things like:

- advertising for staff
- training for staff
- paying for other support when your own staff are on holiday or off sick.
- Insurance (this is a payment to protect you and your staff)

You will need to:

- have a special Bank account
- keep records of what you spend the money on.

The money (Direct Payment) will be paid into your bank account every four weeks. The Learning Disability Partnership will need to check that you are spending it carefully. You must spend the money on things in your list (care plan) and not on other things. Cambridgeshire PASS will help you show how you have spent the money.



You might be asked to pay some of your benefits money into this account. This is called a charge or contribution towards your care and support. If there is a charge (contribution) for the service you will be told how much this will be.

To make sure we do not charge you too much you will be asked some questions about your financial situation. A Financial and Benefits Assessor will come and see you to talk about this.

Reviews

Everyone who receives social support and services will have a regular review.

A first review takes place shortly after your Direct Payment is set up.

After this you will have a review at least once a year. All of the reviews are to check to see if everything is working out and the support you are receiving still meet your needs.



Useful contacts:

Cambridgeshire PASS –

telephone: 01473 239489

website: www.cambspass.org.uk

Valuing People website –

www.valuingpeople.gov.uk

This has some useful information about direct payments.

more information

Further information is available on our website

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/CambridgeshireLearningDisabilityPartnership

or by contacting the Contact Centre on **0845 045 5202**.

If you have any questions about this booklet please contact:

Cambridgeshire Learning
Disability Partnership
SS1415
Park House
Shire Hall
Cambridge CB3 0AP
Phone: 01223 717473

This leaflet is available on request in large print, Braille, Urdu, Bengali, Vietnamese or any other language and on tape, CD/DVD.

Produced by:

Cambridgeshire County Council,
Communications Team,
SS1003, Castle Court, Shire Hall,
Cambridge CB3 0AP

Phone: 01223 717309

Fax: 01223 717308

Acknowledgements

Pictures by Change Bank

Information

for people with learning disabilities