



A Guide to **Direct Payments**

Community Services



“It’s about choice and control, and being able to do what you want and when you want to do it”

What is a direct payment?

A direct payment is a sum of money paid to you by the Council for you to arrange and manage your own care.

People can get support if they need help with employing a personal assistant or care agency. Your social care worker can put you in touch with a support service that can help you manage your direct payment.

If you are employing someone yourself, the Council strongly recommend you carry out a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check before employing the person.

You will get money to help you set up the direct payment which will pay for advertising for staff, employer’s liability insurance and a CRB check.



“Everything’s there to support me, I know who to go to if I have problems. I’m in control”.

As well as an hourly rate a direct payment includes money for:

- employer’s national insurance
- payroll charges
- annual insurance costs
- statutory payments holiday pay, sick pay and maternity pay

How do I get a direct payment?

You will need to be assessed by Social Care to see if you can receive services from the Council.

If you qualify for services you may be able to receive a direct payment to organise your own care.

A direct payment could cover all or part of your care needs.

You will still be expected to pay a contribution toward your care package, where this applies.



“People I like work for me, it’s made so much difference. I’m empowered”.

What can I spend it on?

A direct payment can only be spent on meeting your assessed needs

You may wish to use your direct payment to purchase care through a care agency or with a personal assistant

A direct payment can also contribute towards:

- **employing a live-in carer**
- **short stays in care homes for no more than 4 weeks each year**
- **day care (not local authority day care)**
- **equipment to meet your care needs**

What a direct payment can not be spent on

You can not use a direct payment to pay for long term care in a care home or to pay for healthcare or housing costs.

Shropshire Council will check regularly how you are spending your direct payment. Excess money in your account will need to be returned to the Council every year.



My Life, My Choice - changes in the way you receive support

Transformation of Adult Social Care is a national programme to enhance social care and provide support that is geared around the person to enable them to be as independent as possible. In Shropshire we are now looking at the way we deliver services and this will mean some changes in how our services work.

Shropshire's **'My Life, My Choice'** programme will be an exciting way of giving more choice and control to people who need support with their care. We will be looking at how we can provide information and guidance to everyone who needs extra support and to offer 'personal budgets' to people who meet the eligibility for social care funding.

A Personal Budget is an amount of money which the Council allocates to help people who need support due to disability, frailty or vulnerability to get the support they want. We will be working in a different way, in order to give you more choice and control over how that money is spent.

We want to involve as many people as possible in shaping these changes. If you are interested to know more please contact your local social care team, details on how to contact us can be found on the back of this booklet.

“My son is having an increased quality of life thanks to his direct payment. He is now having real experiences and an everyday life. He is in the real world”.

How to contact us:

For more information about Direct Payments or to find out your nearest social care team please call our Customer Service number on:

0345 678 9005

or email **customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk**

If you can read this but know someone who can't please contact us on 0345 678 9000 so we can provide this information in a more suitable format.