


DIRECT PAYMENTS

VERSION No	2	
REVIEWED BY	Mariana Philipova	
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Policy Statement

This type of payment was introduced in the mid – 90’s and they remain the government’s preferred mechanism for personalised care and support. These payments, along with personal budgets and personalised care planning, mandated for the first time in the Care Act 2014, provide the platform from which to deliver a modern care and support system. People should be encouraged to take ownership of their care planning and can be free to choose how their needs are met, whether through local authority or third-party provision, by direct payments or a combination of the three approaches. This organisation is committed to working with Direct Payment holders to develop and deliver the services best suited to meet their assessed needs.

Care Act 2014

The Act introduces different ways that Direct Payments can be used and gives detailed guidance to Local Authorities on how to facilitate the changes. The Act identifies the following conditions in order for a Direct Payment to be accessed. These conditions need to be met if the request for to receive a Direct Payment being declined is to be averted. The conditions are:

- € The adult has capacity to make the request, and where there is a nominated, person that person agrees to receive the payments;
- € The local authority is not prohibited by regulations from meeting the adult’s needs by making direct payments to the adult or nominated person;
- € The local authority is satisfied that the adult or nominated person is capable of managing direct payments either by himself or herself, or with whatever help the authority thinks the adult or nominated person will be able to access;
- € The local authority is satisfied that making direct payments to the adult or nominated person is on appropriate way to meet the needs in question.

These are nationally set conditions which apply to all local authorities.

Paying Family Members

This has been classified to include management / administration of the direct payment, but care is still excluded by those living in the same household. Any arrangement should be included in the Care Plan, detailing the Payment amounts.

Care in a Care Home

Respite can be purchased, a maximum of 4 weeks stay. Additional statutory guidance will be introduced, when this is being implemented. The important changes will be reflected in the Care Plan for Direct Payment holders and, again the flexible arrangements that are required to meet the needs of resident will be looked at on an individual as basis and services developed accordingly.

As a general rule, direct payments should not be used to purchase services from the “home” local authority. This does not preclude people from purchasing services from other local authorities.

The Future

For us as providers, it simply means being clear about or role in recording, making sure we comply with our local authority service specification requirements regarding direct payment resident, being vigilant in updating our guidance and working together with our local authority partners to provide the services which individuals need to meet their assessed needs.

Training Statement

Staff will be updated on the changes being brought in as local authorities develop the guidance and it becomes clear, what changes, if any, needs to be implemented.

