

Adult Social Care Direct payments



Easy read version



Updated May 2023

What is a direct payment?



A direct payment is the money that Coventry City Council will pay you to arrange and pay for your care and support.

It is instead of the Council arranging and paying for the care and support for you.



Direct payments are part of the Government's Personalisation scheme. Personalisation is for people who need care and support. It lets them choose what care they have and who gives it. It helps people to be more independent. You can read more information [here](#).

Who can have a direct payment?



First you have a social care assessment. If the Council say you have 'eligible social care needs' they will help you to either get the services you need, or give you an amount of money to pay for the care and support.



This money that the Council agree to pay you is called your personal budget.

You can receive it yourself or someone who supports you can receive it.



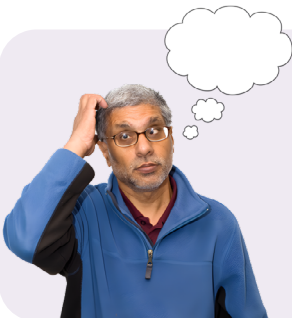
If you have a personal budget you can choose who supports you and what times work best for you. You can choose how you want to have the support.



The money that is paid to you is called a direct payment.



You can choose to have a mixed package. This is when the Council provide some services and you arrange some of your own support paid for with your direct payment.



The council will assess if you have the mental capacity to make your own decision about having a direct payment



If you can't make the decision yourself, the council will ask family or a friend to help you.



If you choose to use a direct payment, you will hire your own carers. These are called **Personal Assistants**. or you can pay a care agency.



If you employ a Personal Assistant you must follow the rules and the law.



The council will also decide if you can manage this on your own.

If you need help, you can ask someone yourself or the council can ask someone to do it for you.

Who can have a direct payment?



If you want support to manage your direct payment, there are companies that can help you.



Penderels Trust are paid by the council to support people with managing their direct payments. You can phone or email them.

Phone number: **024 7651 1611**

Email address: Coventry@penderelstrust.org.uk



They can also help you to find a Personal Assistant.

You can phone them or use their website.

Phone number: **024 7651 1611**

Website: <https://www.penderelstrust.org.uk>



You can also find other care agencies to help by visiting the Care Quality Commission website.

Website: <https://cqc.org.uk>



Sometimes the council might ask a different company to manage your direct payment. They could also pay family members living in the same house as you to do it.



You can also ask for help from your named worker or phone the independent living team.

Phone number: **024 7527 0960**

How often will I get a direct payment?



If you need help all of the time, you will get paid the direct payment every four weeks.



Or, if you need help once, or for a short time, this can be a one-off payment.

How can I spend a direct payment?



Direct payments can be spent on different things. There is no set list. But you have to use it to meet your 'eligible social care' needs. You should agree what you will spend the direct payment on with the council. A support plan explains what support you need to keep safe, and how your care and support needs will be met.

Some of the things you could spend the direct payments on include:

- Help at home or out and about, by Personal Assistants or carers from an agency
- For someone to help you with your hobbies and interests
- To pay for care while you and your family go on holiday
- Or for equipment and things that might improve your life, if an occupational therapist agrees.
- You can also use it to pay for your Personal Assistants to go on training courses if they need it.



Will it affect my benefits or the money I earn from a job?

Direct payments are different to benefits.

This means that it will not affect any benefits or pensions you receive.

But, you will have a 'financial assessment' with the council.

This is to work out how much you might need to pay towards your care and support.



How do I find out more?



You can phone your social care team or named worker.

You can also phone the Independent Living Team on:

Phone number: **024 7527 0960**



If you don't know what team to contact, you can email or phone Adult Social Care Direct.

Email address: ASCdirect@coventry.gov.uk

Phone number: **024 7683 3003**