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Adult social care is the support provided to adults with either physical or learning disabilities, or physical or mental health issues.

The support provided could be for personal care such as washing, dressing, help to take medication and functional transfers if you have a physical disability.

Adult social care can be provided through care services, including care homes or a carer helping in your home.

These services are usually paid for by either the person who receives the care, or by us as the local council. We will need to look at the money you have to decide how your care is paid for. You have the option of how the care service is delivered to you. If you choose to arrange your own care, and you're entitled to help with the cost, the council will pay you the agreed amount each month for you to pay for your arranged service.

What is a Direct Payment?

If you choose to receive a Direct Payment, the agreed amount of money will be transferred directly to you each month so you can pay for the support you need.

Why Choose Direct Payments?

Direct Payments allows you more flexibility and control over how your Care and Support Plan package is met. You can choose your own Private Carer or Care Agency and arrange with them how and when your care is delivered.

What is a personal Budget?

If you are eligible for help, your social worker will detail on your Care and Support Plan the amount of money to be spent to meet your care needs. Both a Care Assessment and a Financial Assessment would be carried out prior to a Care and Support plan being agreed.

How can I apply for a Personal Budget?

Once your Care and Support Plan has been agreed and approved, your social worker can discuss options available to you. If you choose to manage your own Personal Budget, you will be asked to sign a Personal Budget Agreement with the council. Your Care and Support plan will be reviewed regularly. If your care needs change you can contact us anytime for a review.

What Can I use my Personal Budget for?

The payments received must be used as set out in the Care and Support plan. The tables below set out what your direct payment can and cannot be used for:

What a Direct Payment Can be used for:

To Employ your own Personal Assistant or carer. If you employ someone directly you should arrange insurance and DBS checks, you will also need to deal with tax, National insurance, and pension issues

To Choose a Care Agency of your own choice

Carers Respite / Short breaks for up to 4 weeks per year

Day Centre/leisure activities (as outlined in the Care and Support plan)

Please speak to your social worker for further details on what your personal budget can/cannot be used for.

What a Direct Payment Cannot be used for:

To employ a spouse, partner, or other close relative, if that person lives in the same household as the person receiving the care

To fund personal daily living costs, debt repayment, investments, gambling or for any illegal purpose

For cleaning, shopping or domestic task, as this would be classified as an unmet need. Instead this can be paid for with Attendance Allowance or DLA/PIP

Permanent residential care

Anything else which is not detailed in your Care and Support Plan



How Payments are made?

To receive Direct Payments, you (Citizen/Representative) must open a dedicated bank account. The account must not be used for any other purpose than to receive Direct Payments and to pay for the assessed care needs, as defined in the Care and Support Plan.

It is very important that you keep all evidence of use of the Direct Payments.

If you need assistance with managing your Personal Budget, please speak to your social worker who will be able to assist you further.

Monitoring how the payment is used

The account will be monitored by the Finance Assessment & Monitoring team to ensure it is being used appropriately for Direct Payments only and as set out in the Care & Support Plan.

This will need to be done before any payment for the following year will be considered. You may be asked to repay to us any amount of funding for which you cannot produce evidence of appropriate use.

Contact details:

Direct Payments team

Tel: 020 8736 6700

E-mail direct.payments@harrow.gov.uk

Adult Social Care

Tel: 020 8901 2680

E-mail ahadults@harrow.gov.uk

Links:

Adult Social Care Charging policy

<https://www.harrow.gov.uk/adult-social-care/adult-social-care-1/3>

Direct Payments for Children and Young Adults with Disabilities Services

<https://www.harrow.gov.uk/schools-learning/children-young-adults-disabilities-service>

Do I need to pay towards my Personal Budget?

A Financial Assessment is carried out for all citizens. Based on this assessment you will either pay for your care in full, pay for it in part, or have your care paid for by the Council.

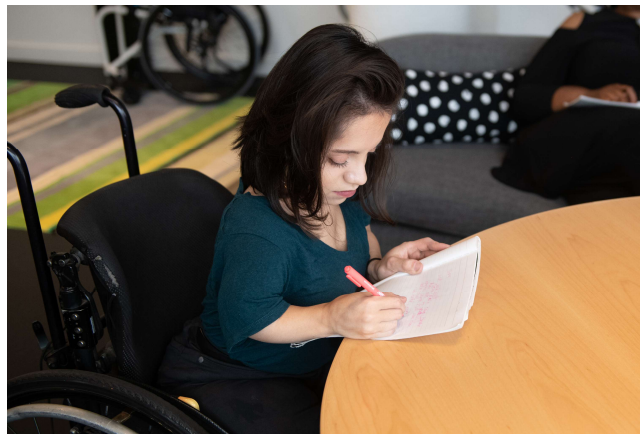


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