Bath & North East Somerset Council

NHS
Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire
Clinical Commissioning Group

Direct Payments

Contents

3 Introduction

4 Who can have a direct payment?

7 How much do you get?

9 Types of direct payment

10 How we pay direct payments

11 What you can spend it on

14 What you cant spend your direct payments on

16 Checking on direct payments

17 Ending your direct payment

18 If you are not happy

19 For more information

Introduction

This document has been written by Bath and North East Somerset Council and NHS Bath and North East Somerset locality.

It explains how the council and health services arrange **Direct Payments** for people who need support and care.

Direct Payments are where the council gives you money to pay for the services that you need.

We want people to be able to choose what they want and make the most of their lives.

Direct payments help people to have more choice and control over how their care and support is managed.

Who can have a direct payment?

When a council social worker is helping you to plan your care and support, they will talk to you about having a direct payment.

Health workers from the NHS Bath and North East Somerset locality may also offer you a direct payment to pay for your long-term health and care support.

Most people who get care and support from the council or NHS Bath and North East Somerset locality can get a direct payment.

But some people who have problems with drugs and alcohol can't have direct payments.

Parents and guardians can get a direct payment to pay for the care or support of a child.

Adults with a learning disability

Adults with a learning disability can have a direct payment.

Usually they will have to have someone to help them to manage the direct payments.

The council will check that the person who is helping is the right person to manage the direct payments money.

Direct Payment Support services can help you arrange a **DBS** check.

A **DBS** check is where they look to see if the person or carer have been in trouble with the police.

When things change for you

Things might change for you. For example you may go into hospital and not need your support worker.

If things change for you, you must tell the council or NHS Bath and North East Somerset locality.

Bath & North East Somerset Council

The council may decide to ask for some of the money back if you have not used it.

How much do you get?

You will meet with a social worker or health worker. They will work out how much care and support you need.

This is called a care plan.

They will also work out the cost of the care and support you need.

This is the amount of money that you get as a direct payment.

Paying towards the cost of your care

If you have money coming in or savings, the council will check to see if you have to pay something towards the cost of your care and support.

You will have a meeting with someone from the Client Finance Team.

The Client Finance team will check whether you need to pay towards your care and support costs.

You have to give them information about:

- The money that you have coming in - including benefits

- Any savings that you have

Types of direct payment

You can get a direct payment to cover different things. For example:

- A one off payment for a certain thing. This could be a bit of equipment like a wheelchair

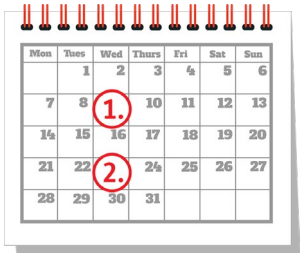
- Regular direct payments to pay for regular support or care

- Health needs. You can now get a direct payment to cover the regular costs of your medical care

- Health and care. You can get a direct payment that pays for both your health and support costs this can be called ‘Integrated Personal Commissioning’

Carers can also get a direct payment to support them in their role.

How we pay direct payments



Direct payments are paid by the council every 2 weeks.

We are planning to give people a special card.

We will put your direct payment onto the card every 2 weeks. You can then use the card to make payments.

What you can spend it on

You have to spend your direct payments on the things that are agreed in your care plan.

This could be:

- Equipment
- A service
- Activities

You can also use your direct payment to pay for a support worker.

You might pay an agency to provide the support worker you need, if you want.

There are laws and rules about employing a support worker.

You need to have:

- A contract of employment with your worker. This is an agreement which explains what they have to do and what you will do

- Insurance, in case your worker hurts themselves whilst they are helping you

- A way to make sure they have a pension plan. This is money they will get when they are too old to work

- A way of paying your worker. This includes making sure you pay their tax and national insurance and pension costs. You have to give them a payslip

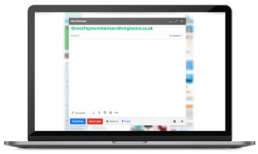
- Check that they have not been in trouble with the police

- Offer your worker training, so they know more about doing a good job

In your direct payment you may also get some money to pay for advertising and choosing a new worker

You may get some money to use in emergencies.

The **Direct Payment Hub** can help you with your Direct Payment. You can contact them on:



Email: **DirectPaymentAdvisors@virgincare.co.uk**

Telephone: **0300 247 0203**

What you can't spend your direct payments on

You cannot use your direct payment to pay for:

- Someone in your close family to look after you. They must claim their own money as a carer

- Things that should be paid for by other organisations

- Gambling

- Paying off your debts

- Anything that is against the law

- Alcohol, tobacco or drugs

- A general health service from your local doctor

You can’t use your council direct payment to pay for health services.

Checking on direct payments

The council or NHS Bath and North East Somerset locality will check to make sure that you are using your direct payments in a proper way.

You may have to show them how you have used the money. You must keep your reciepts.

The council or NHS Bath and North East Somerset locality will check to see if the care and support you are buying is working well.

They will check that you are safe.

Your direct payment belongs to the council or NHS Bath and North East Somerset locality.

If it has not been used to pay for your care and support - they will ask for it back.

If you die, the council or NHS Bath and North East Somerset locality will ask for any direct payment back that has not been used.

Ending your direct payment

The direct payment will end if:

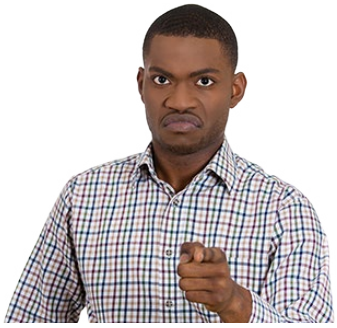
- You don't need the service any more

- The council or NHS Bath and North East Somerset locality thinks that you are not managing your direct payments properly

- You are unable to show the council or NHS Bath and North East Somerset locality how you have been spending the direct payment

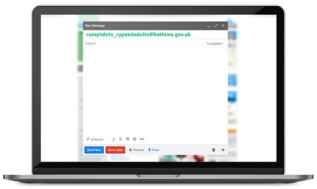
- If the payment is spent on things that it should not be spent on

If you are not happy



You can make a complaint by:

Telephone: **01225 477752**



Email: **complaints_cypandadults@bathnes.gov.uk**

Post:

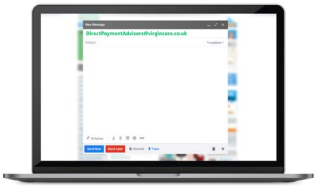
Complaints Team
Bath and North East Somerset Council
Freepost SWB10433
Bath
BA1 1BF

You don't have to put a stamp on the envelope.

For more information

If you need more information please contact us by:

Telephone: **0300 247 0203**



Email: **DirectPaymentAdvisors@virgincare.co.uk**

You can access the full version of this document in the following ways:

- at a one stop shop
- Online: **www.bathnes.gov.uk**
- or by contacting Samantha Bailey:

Email: **samanatha_bailey@bathnes.gov.uk**

Telephone: **01225 477810**

All documents are available in alternate formats and languages.

Easy Read by **Easy-Read-Online.co.uk**