

Appendix 1

Carers Direct Payment Guidance

Introduction

Carers are entitled to a carer's assessment where they regularly provide a substantial amount of care for someone. Following a carer's assessment, a carer may be eligible to receive a Carer's Direct Payment. This is a single one-off payment and carers receiving a Direct Payment will have an annual review to confirm any continuing needs. Carers can request a reassessment during the twelve-month period if their circumstances change. Carers are only eligible for a Direct Payment if they do not receive any payment for caring for an individual.

A Carer's Direct Payment must be used for the carer themselves and cannot be used to pay for services and/or activities for others including the person cared for.

Eligibility

Following a carer's assessment a person may be eligible to receive a Carer's Direct Payment to support them in maintaining their health and wellbeing. A carer meets the eligibility threshold if all three criteria are met:

1. A carer's support need arises because they are providing necessary care to an adult. 'Necessary care' relates to support which the cared for person is not capable of meeting themselves.
2. As a result of the caring responsibilities, the carer's physical or mental health is either deteriorating or is at risk of deteriorating; or the carer is unable to achieve any of the following outcomes:
 - Carrying out any caring responsibilities that the carer has for a child
 - Providing care to other people who the carer provides care for
 - Maintaining a habitable home environment in the carer's home
 - Managing and maintaining nutrition
 - Developing and maintaining family or other personal relationships
 - Engaging in work, training, education or volunteering
 - Making use of necessary facilities or services in the local community including recreational facilities or services
 - Engaging in recreational activities
3. As a consequence there is, or there is likely to be, a significant impact on the carer's wellbeing.

Agreeing to a Direct Payment

Direct Payments will only be made when the Council receives a signed Direct Payment Agreement. The Direct Payment Agreement sets out the conditions and responsibilities for both parties and is the contract between the individual and the Council. The carer must have access to a bank account in order to receive the direct payment and will be required to keep and return receipts of how the payment was used.

Using a Direct Payment

A carer can use a Direct Payment to meet outcomes in their care and support plan, for example by:

- Paying for activities to help the person stay well such as gym membership.
- Paying for equipment that reduces the activities impacting on a person's wellbeing, this may include white goods, communication devices, however this cannot be used to purchase equipment for the cared for person.
- Activities to improve the wellbeing of the carer – specific activities will be agreed within the care plan.