



Education, Health and Social Care *Direct Payments* **Managing Your Own Support For your Care at Home**

If your assessment from Education, Health and Social Care shows that you have eligible social care needs, we will give you a Personal Budget, to help you meet those needs. We will give you a suggested amount of money (an indicative budget) which you can use to plan the support you need, when agreed this will be your "Personal Budget"

What can I buy?



You can use a Personal Budget in a variety of ways, but it must meet your eligible social care needs as identified in your assessment. This means you can't pay for food, household bills, rent or mortgage, gamble, anything against the law or health services.

You can Choose –



There are different ways to manage your Personal Budget.

- You can choose to have this paid to you; we call this a Direct Payment. You can use a Direct Payment to employ Personal Assistants, pay a Care Agency of your choice, or buy something else which meets your eligible social care needs.
- You can choose for the Council to look after it; we will choose, arrange and pay for your support.

You can have a mixture of both.

The benefits of a Direct Payment:



- You can arrange and manage your own support.
- Choose the people who support you whether this is via an agency or employing your own staff, or a mixture of both.
- Services can be flexible, you can arrange support as and when you require it.

The Care Act – Fact Sheet 8B

Using a Direct Payment for a Care Agency



If you wish to choose your own Care Agency, the Council will give you up to £14.50 per hour for personal care and £12.00 per hour for domestic tasks. If you are thinking of buying something else we can advise you of the relevant rate. You can contact the **Support Brokerage Team** ☎ **01872 324249**. If you are buying personal care from an agency, the agency should be registered by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). You can find a local Care Agency by looking on the Community Directory www.communitydirectory.cornwall.gov.uk

Employing Personal Assistants



With your Direct Payment you can employ your own Personal Assistants. This will mean you will be an employer and be responsible for paying their wages, taxes and pension, keeping records and organising the support you need. You will need to think about: how many personal assistants you need to employ; what hours they will work and how much you will pay them. The Direct Payments Advice Team is able to provide all the information to help you decide if this is for you. The team also offer ongoing support such as help to recruit and signposting. You can contact the **Direct Payment Advice Team** ☎ **01872 324357** or email directpaymentsadviceteam@cornwall.gov.uk

Keeping Records



You will need to keep bank statements, copies of bills and anything related to employing your Personal Assistants. At your Review someone from the Council will want to see these records.

Having a Direct Payment



If you decide to have a Direct Payment you will need a separate Bank Account. The Council will pay the Direct Payment money, less your assessed contribution, which you need to add into this account, every four weeks. You will be responsible for paying for your support out of this account. You can ask someone else or another agency to manage your Direct Payment for you.