HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL	# Direct Payments: How they work as part of your Personal Budget April 2024

What is a Personal Budget?

A Personal Budget is the amount of money needed to pay for your social care. The Council assesses your needs and calculates the sum and tells you whether you have to pay a contribution towards it.

You will be able to choose how the total sum is spent and take as much control over your care as you feel comfortable with. This is sometimes called "Self Directed Support".

What is a Direct Payment?

A Direct Payment is an amount of money which is allocated that has been assessed to meet your eligible Care Act needs. A direct payment gives you choice and contract over how your eligible needs are met, including purchasing and arranging for things that are important in your life. It allows you to use the funds to achieve the outcomes identified in your agreed support plan. You can choose to have all or part of your Personal Budget as a Direct Payment.

Who can receive a Direct Payment?

Direct Payments are an option if you have both:

- Been assessed as having eligible needs
- And are entitled to help with care costs following the financial assessment

What can I spend my Direct Payment on?

A Direct Payment is intended to meet eligible care needs. Examples of acceptable use are:

- To purchase services from a Care Provider
- To directly employ a Personal Assistant
- Help with personal care
- Help with Daily Living activities
- Day Care services both traditional and non-traditional
- Support to promote independence, education or employment needs
- Short Stay/respite care
- To purchase Assistive Technology
- Other Services identified in your support plan to meet your agreed outcomes.

This is not a full list. Please speak to your care management team if you are not sure what you can pay for your direct payment.

What can't I spend my Direct Payment on?

You cannot use your Direct Payment to pay for:

- Anything that is illegal

- Gambling (including lottery tickets, bingo, etc)
- Purchasing Food and Drink
- Food/heating/lighting/general household or living expenses
- Drugs, tobacco or alcohol
- Residential care or Nursing Care Services
- Clothing and jewellery
- Healthcare needs that should be paid for by Health Services
- Employing someone who lives in the same household (unless there are exceptional reasons which have been agreed).

How are Direct Payments Paid?

You or your representative will have to decide where you would like us to pay your Direct Payment.

We can either:

- Pay it directly into a bank account (must be separate from your personal funds)
- Pay it to someone else, if you are not happy dealing with the money yourself
- Pay it to a Third Party Managed Account Provider who will manage your budget on your behalf.
- Pay it onto a Prepaid Card

Where can I get support/help about Direct Payments?

Yes. You will get help from the Council's Direct Payments Team which gives advice and support to people using Direct Payments. They can help with:

- Setting up your Direct Payment
- Payroll and Insurance
- Audit Paperwork
- Provide on-going support

How do I apply to receive a Direct Payment?

If you have a Social Worker/Community Care Worker/Early Years Help Worker - they can tell you more about Direct Payments. Otherwise you will need to contact the council to see if they can get you the support you need.

Contact Details

Halton Borough Council Direct Payments Team	- 0151 511 7575
Halton Borough Council Contact Centre	- 0303 333 4300
Halton Borough Council Adult Social Care	- 0151 907 8306
Halton Borough Council Childrens I Cart	- 0151 907 8305

You can access further information and download information on Personal Budgets online at
http://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/adultsocialcare/AdultSocialCare.aspx
Local Offer | Halton's Local Offer (haltonchildrenstrust.co.uk)