Direct Payments

Giving you greater choice, control and flexibility over the support and care you may need.

What is a Direct Payment?

Following an assessment, the Council will agree an amount of money that is reasonable to meet your needs. This is called a Personal Budget. To give you the greatest choice in how your needs are met you can take some or all of your Personal Budget as a Direct Payment. A Direct Payment is money that the Council pays you so that you can arrange your own care and support. In some circumstances the Council may arrange and pay for your services directly.

Who can receive Direct Payments?

Direct Payments are for everyone who is over 16 and has been assessed as eligible for services or equipment. There are some people who cannot receive Direct Payments, these include:

- People receiving treatment for mental health, alcohol and/or substance misuse who are under assessment and/or treatment orders
- People who are subject to certain criminal justice orders

Direct Payments are also for carers aged 18 or over, including people with parental responsibility for a disabled child.

What can Direct Payments be used for?

Direct Payments are for buying services and equipment to meet the needs described in your assessment. There is flexibility about how you can use the money, as long as it meets the outcomes identified in your support plan. Some people use the money to recruit and employ a personal care assistant, others buy care from an agency. Other options can also be considered, including:

- Community support (for example, outreach, daytime activities, transport or escorting)
- Short breaks (respite care)
- Leisure or recreational activities
- Practical support if you are a carer.

DP cannot be used to purchase services directly provided by the Council for example, Day centres run by the Council.

www.enfield.gov.uk
**How will I receive my Direct Payment?**

The best way to receive your Direct Payment is through the Enfield E-card. It is a secure and convenient way of paying for your personal care through a chip and PIN Visa card which does not require a bank account.

Enfield Council will load your Direct Payments money onto the card instead of paying it into a bank account.

You can pay for services face-to-face using your PIN number, over the internet, by telephone or bank transfer.

You will get a monthly statement showing all payments made using the card making record keeping easier.

Alternatively, you can choose to have your Direct Payment paid into a bank account. If your Direct Payment is over £120 per week, you will need to set up a separate bank account.

You will have a financial assessment to establish whether you will need to make a financial contribution to your care and support. If you do, this will be deducted from the money we pay you and you will be expected to pay this towards your Direct Payment.

**What support will I get with my Direct Payments?**

You will be responsible for managing the way that the money is spent, keeping records, organising the services, paying for your care and arranging back-up in emergencies.

If you need help to manage your Direct Payments, you can ask a family member or friend. We can also give you information about independent organisations that can provide advice and support to manage your Direct Payments.

**Why choose Direct Payments?**

Direct Payments give you greater choice and control. You can decide how your needs will be met, by whom and at a time that suits you.

Direct Payments help give you the opportunity to live as independently as possible.

Direct Payments can help you:

- continue to live in your own home
- be fully involved in family and community life
- engage in work, education and leisure.

You can use Direct Payments on its own or alongside services provided for you.

**How can I get Direct Payments?**

If you would like further information, please contact your social worker or care co-ordinator.

If you do not have a social worker / care co-ordinator or you would like to request an assessment of your needs, please visit [www.enfield.gov.uk/ineedhelp](http://www.enfield.gov.uk/ineedhelp) and complete the online form. Alternatively, you can contact Adult Social Care on:

Email: adultsocialcare@enfield.gov.uk

☎ 020 8379 1001

Textphone: 020 8379 6962

If you need to contact Adult Social Care Services in an emergency outside office hours, please contact the Out-of-Hours Duty Social Worker on ☎ 020 8379 1000.

**Where can I get more information?**

For more information or for a copy of the following factsheets, visit our website [www.enfield.gov.uk/adultsocialcare](http://www.enfield.gov.uk/adultsocialcare) or phone ☎ 020 8379 1001.

- DP02 Enfield E-card
- DP03 Carers Direct Payments

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We want to hear from you if you have a comment, compliment or complaint. Please contact us on: ☎ 020 8379 1001 or pick up a leaflet at Council buildings or visit: [www.enfield.gov.uk/adultsocialcare](http://www.enfield.gov.uk/adultsocialcare)