

Who do I contact?

Speak to your social worker or Care Manager or contact us:

Direct Payments Support Service

Dundee Carers Centre

First Floor, Argyll House

West Marketgait

Dundee DD1 1QP

Tel: 01382 200 422

E-mail: directpayments@dundecarerscentre.org.uk

www.dundecarerscentre.org.uk/Home/What-We-Do/



For more information

User's Guide to Self-Directed Support in Scotland
'Directing Your Own Support' (Scottish Government):

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/publications>

www.selfdirectedsupportscotland.org.uk

You can also contact your

Local Authority Social Work Department:

Dundee City Council

First Contact Team

Tel: 01382 434 019

Angus Council Access Line

Tel: 08452 777 778

Email: accessline@angus.gov.uk

Direct Payments Support Service

Dundee Carers Centre

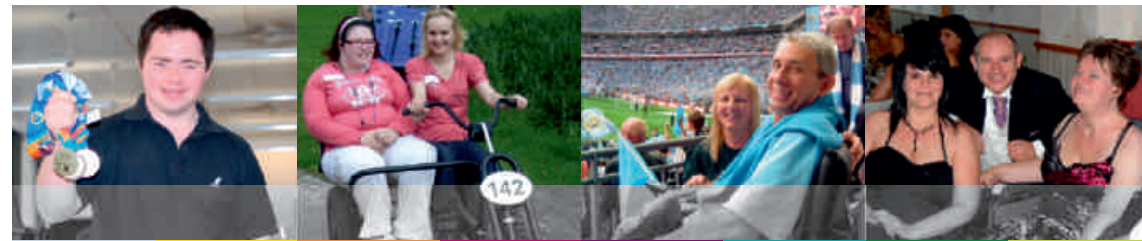
www.dundecarerscentre.org.uk

Scottish Charity Number SC024115



Direct Payments Support Service

Dundee and Angus



Putting You in Control of Your Care

What is a Direct Payment?

A Direct Payment means that you are given a budget to arrange your own care. This is instead of social work providing or arranging your care package. You can also get a Direct Payment to arrange your child's support needs. Direct Payments are also known as **Self-Directed Support**.

If you are assessed as needing services you can:

- Employ your own personal assistant
- Buy support from an agency
- Buy services from a local authority

Who can direct their own support?

If you receive social work services or have assessed needs, you can probably get a Direct Payment. For example:

- children with support needs
- adults with physical or sensory impairments or a learning disability
- mental health service users
- older people

Direct Payments can open new doors for you to have:

- More freedom in the way you live your life
- More independence
- More choice and control over your services

What you can use it for

You can use your budget to:

- Pay someone to provide your care and support in any setting
- Take a short break at the location of your choice
- Get support to access employment and further education
- Buy equipment and adaptations

"Before receiving direct payments I was being put to bed at 7.30pm, now that I'm in control, I'm going out at 7.30pm!"

Can I get support to manage my budget?

Managing your direct payment budget is a major responsibility but you can have as much help as you need. This support can come from family, friends, advocates or voluntary organisations such as the Direct Payments Support Service.

It is your responsibility to arrange the services you need, to sort out any problems with the service and to account for the way you use the money. If you employ a personal assistant, you will have legal responsibilities as an employer.

"My advice to anyone who has any level of assistance needs, is to pursue their chosen life... and self directed support is the main tool of making that happen"

What is the Direct Payments Support Service?

The Direct Payments Support Service works independently of the local authority to provide support to people in Dundee and Angus who would like to direct their own support.

Our service aims to ensure that you:

- have the advice, Information and support you need
- feel confident to manage your direct payment budget

What support can we give you?

- Advice and information regarding Direct Payments
- Support to set up and manage your budget
- Assistance with recruitment, such as joining the PVG (Protection of Vulnerable Groups) scheme and advertising for staff
- A Payroll Service which includes calculating wages, tax and national insurance, providing payslips and preparing tax records
- Advice on good employment practice and legal responsibilities
- Provide or signpost employers and staff to training opportunities
- Advice on using an agency instead of becoming an employer
- Help you to complete the financial monitoring forms required by the local authority

"Self directed support has enabled me to continue with a full and fulfilling life where I can enjoy meals out, the cinema, football, visiting friends, shopping, our local pub and holidays abroad"