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# DIRECT PAYMENTS

## An Easy Read Guide

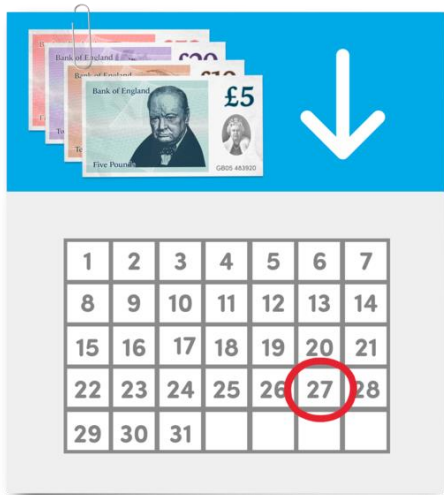


[www.rotherham.gov.uk](http://www.rotherham.gov.uk)

Rotherham  
Metropolitan  
Borough Council



# What are Direct Payments?



Direct Payments are sums of money paid directly to you from Rotherham Council.

You can use the Direct Payments to sort out and pay for the care and support in your support plan.



You can use Direct Payments to meet your assessed needs.



You do not need to have a Direct Payment. Your assessed needs can be met in other ways.

We will help you with this.

# Who can have Direct Payments?

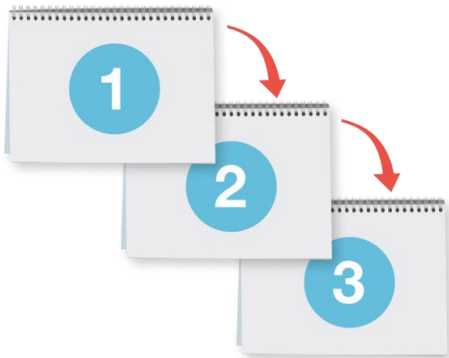


You can only have Direct Payments after you have had an **assessment** from us.

An **assessment** is checking if something is possible or not.



Most people who get help from social care can get Direct Payments.



If you cannot have a Direct Payment, we will tell you why and explain the next steps.

# What can Direct Payments be used for?



You can spend the Direct Payment money to get the help and equipment that your assessment says you need.

For example:



To go on a course or go to college.

To go out and enjoy yourself.



To go to work.

To take a break.



To pay people to support you at home. These people are called Personal Assistants.

# What can't Direct Payments be used for?



You cannot spend your Direct Payment on:

Your Household bills.



Any social care services you receive that are already paid for by the council.

Paying one of your family members who lives in the same house as you to provide care for you. Unless Rotherham Council says this is ok.



Your housing needs.

Your health services.



Long term **residential care**.

**Residential care** is when you live in a care home because you cannot live on your own, even with support.

# What will I need to do?



You will need to have an assessment to check if you can have services. If you can, we will write a **support plan** with you.

A **support plan** is a document which will tell you what services you will use. How they will meet your needs. When they will start and who will help you.



The plan will show what is going to happen and when it will happen.



You will need a back-up support plan. If something goes wrong, a **social worker** will help you with your back-up support plan.

A **social worker** is a trained person who will support you to work through challenges in your everyday life.



# Who can help me with my Direct Payment?



We will provide help and information about your Direct Payments.



You can manage your Direct Payment yourself, or your family or friends can support you.



You can also choose a paid organisation to manage your Direct Payment for you.



We will support you to set this up and provide advice about it, if you chose this option.



# Will I need to pay anything myself?



We will work with you to find out how much you can afford to pay towards your Direct Payment.

This is called a **financial assessment**.

A **financial assessment** tells us how much you can afford to pay towards your care and support



If you are asked to pay something towards your care and support costs, we will tell you how to do this.



If you feel that you cannot afford to pay towards your care and support costs, then you can ask us to look at your financial assessment again.

# Do I have to have a Direct Payment?



No, you do not have to have a Direct Payment.



If you decide that you would like to try out Direct Payments, you can let us know.



If you want more information you can telephone the Customer Contact Team 01709 822330 or you can look online [www.rotherham.gov.uk](http://www.rotherham.gov.uk)