

# Direct Payments

A personalised way of managing a health or social care budget, that puts the person first, gives them control, choice and self direction to live an independent live.



background

Based on the 'social model' of disability, that sees 'barriers to participation' not 'broken bodies or minds'.

Focused on facilitating 'independent living' to enable active citizens, not passive recipients of benevolent care.

Came from 'Project 81' in Hampshire that allowed disabled people to use their 'residential home' costs to live independently.



how to apply

You take on responsibility for managing all aspects of the support.

Following a social or health care assessment you can ask for the budget to be given to you directly as a 'direct

This includes, employment, management, HR, contracts, safety, monitoring and other things.



for & against

+ You are in control, you can design and manage in a way that suits you, you are the boss!

- Management of the budget and staff can be tricky, you have to be on top of a lot of things

for more info see [disabilitysheffield.org.uk](http://disabilitysheffield.org.uk)

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Here are some different lived experiences of using a direct payment for support.

Chris - Runs a Direct Payment as an employer.



'... I live on my own, I work full time as an accountant and am involved in various community projects. I have a 24 hour care package and employ a team of four personal assistants who provide a range of domestic and personal care support to help me live an independent life. I manage all aspects of my support package myself. I also use part of my budget to pay for hydrotherapy...'

Barbara - Runs most of the Direct Payment, outsources payroll.



'... I work as a disability advice and advocacy worker. I have a 12 hour a week support package that helps me with domestic, managing the home and to go out and about. I employ one personal assistant who have experience and skills in Caribbean cooking and culture ...'

Ashrafia - Has a managed account, uses an agency to provide staff and make payments for services.



'...I'm a full time carer for my two disabled daughters. We use two staff from an agency that come a couple of times a week to support the girls and help them with their physio and occupational therapy...'

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