

# Direct Payments

A guide for for parents and carers of children and young people who have disabilities



This guide will help you understand:

- ✓ more about direct payments
- ✓ what they can be used for
- ✓ the benefit they can make to your family life



[www.bromley.gov.uk/directpayments](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/directpayments)

# What is a direct payment?

A direct payment is money that we can pay to you if your child is eligible to receive care and support from us.

There are two routes to work out if you are eligible:



Following the assessment, we will discuss with you what support you require to meet your child's identified needs and the amount of money required to meet those needs.

This allocated money will become your personal budget.

# Who can receive a direct payment?

You can choose to take a direct payment if you meet the eligibility criteria and your child is aged under the age of 18 and has:



A severe or profound **physical disability** or



A severe or profound **learning disability** or



A severe or profound **sensory disability** or



A severe or profound **autism spectrum disorder** or



A complex and enduring **long term medical condition**

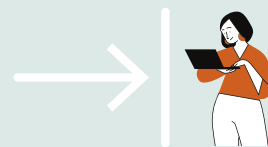
# How can you receive your personal budget?

You can choose to take this personal budget as:



## **a direct payment**

- we will give the money to you to arrange and pay for their care and support



## **managed by the Council**

- we will give the money directly to the service that is providing the care and support

## What happens next?

Once your direct payment is agreed we will talk to you about what you want to **achieve** and the different ways that your personal budget, including your direct payment, can be used to **support your needs**.

This will be signed off in your **support plan**.

Your support needs will be **reviewed each year** or when a change happens to your situation.

## How are direct payments paid?

Payments are paid **directly into a bank account every 4 weeks**. This account must be used just for the direct payment. We will audit this account. You must be willing and able to manage:



The care  
arrangements  
you choose



The direct  
payment bank  
account



Monitoring  
the payments  
you make

If this feels challenging or a worry for you, you can receive support from Vibrance (see their details on the last page) to help you manage your care and direct payment account for you.

# Prepaid cards

The preferred method for issuing direct payments is with a prepaid card provided by allpay.

We will pay money into your prepaid card account. The process for setting up an allpay prepaid card account is straightforward and co-ordinated by the Council.

You can then use this card just like a standard debit card to purchase the services, facilities, or equipment that has been agreed to meet the needs outlined in your support plan.



If your direct payment is being used to employ a carer or personal assistant then you might be able to have a managed payroll service which is currently provided by Vibrance. If this is the case, you will not need to have an allpay account set up.

## What can I use direct payments for?

In your support plan we will agree how you want to spend your direct payments. This could be to:



Receive care  
in the way  
you choose



Take part in  
an enjoyable  
activity



Provide support  
in your own  
home



Provide support  
out in the  
community

# Direct payments are spent on care in your home or out in the community.

You may:



Be an employer, so you can decide with your child who you employ and when

This cannot usually be someone who lives with you



Arrange to access a club or activity or receive care from an individual



Use services to assist you with the employment, payments and to help monitor the direct payments



This is done through an organisation called Vibrance



For information about Personal Budgets for Education, please talk to your Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) coordinator

# Be inspired...

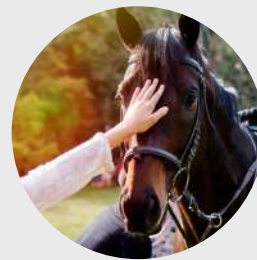
Read about how some of our residents are using their direct payment across Bromley.

THEO



My parents employ my own Personal Assistant to take me to watch my favourite football team

SARA



I use my direct payment to employ my neighbour so they can take me horse riding on a Saturday afternoon

ANDREW



I attend a specialist club for other children who have autism where I need 1:1 support

MICHELLE



We use our direct payment to employ a personal assistant to provide care whilst I attend my adult education course

# What to do next?

Speak to us for more advice and guidance to help you make the right choice:



[www.bromley.gov.uk/directpayments](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/directpayments)



020 8313 4511



[DisabledChildrensTeam@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:DisabledChildrensTeam@bromley.gov.uk)

*Produced by:*

Children's Social Care  
**LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY**  
Civic Centre, Stockwell Close,  
Bromley BR1 3UH

