

## Direct Payments

[www.devon.gov.uk/cwan](http://www.devon.gov.uk/cwan)

August 2011

### Information about Direct Payments for parents and carers of children and young people with disabilities.

#### What are Direct Payments?

Money is given to your family so you can arrange the most suitable support and decide how it is arranged and provided. Many families who choose Direct Payments find they get greater flexibility than having services arranged for them.

#### Who can get Direct Payments?

- People with parental responsibility for a child with a disability.
- Young people with disabilities aged 16 or 17 years old.
- Young carers aged 16 or 17 years old.

#### How can we get Direct Payments?

Your child will need to have an assessment of need using the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) or Integrated Assessment process. If you are assessed as needing services such as short breaks, you can choose to arrange them yourself using Direct Payments.

#### What can Direct Payments be used for?

Anything which helps achieve the outcomes in your child's Service Plan.

This might be:

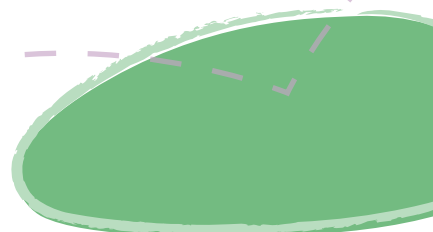
- out-of-school activities
- session with a childminder
- help in the home with domestic tasks

- a carer who looks after your child at home or takes them out
- a top up payment if you want to buy a more expensive piece of equipment than can be provided by social care.

#### The Direct Payments Agreement

If you choose Direct Payments your family will be given an agreement which explains that you must:

- set up a separate bank account for the Direct Payments
- only use Direct Payments to meet the outcomes in your child's Service Plan
- not transfer the Direct Payments money in to any other account
- make payments to service providers by cheque or other means which show clearly how it has been spent – cash withdrawals are not acceptable unless you match them to receipts sent to us
- keep all receipts for six years in case they are needed for auditor spot checks
- complete a simple Money Tracker Form every three months and send this to us with a copy of your Direct Payments account statement.



# Factsheet 14

## Are there any restrictions?

You can't:

- pay for council-run services
- buy residential care for longer than 28 consecutive days or 120 nights in a 12 month period - this will reduce to 17 consecutive days and 75 nights in April 2011
- pay a relative who lives with you, except in exceptional circumstances which must be agreed with us in advance
- pay for day care or overnight stays in the home of a carer who is not a registered childminder if the child they would be looking after is under 8 years old.

## Can Direct Payments be withheld or withdrawn?

They may be withheld if we feel that the way your family plan to use them will not adequately safeguard your child. We can withdraw the Payments if the terms and conditions of the agreement are not being met.

## Where can I get more information?

You can find general advice at [www.everychildmatters.gov.uk](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk) and [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk)

You can get more information on Direct Payments in Devon and view the **Direct Payments Information Pack** at [www.devon.gov.uk/cwan-directpayments](http://www.devon.gov.uk/cwan-directpayments)

Speak to your lead professional or contact your local Direct Payments Support Co-ordinator.

### Direct Payments Support Co-ordinators

North Devon **01271 386233**

East Devon **01392 384442**

South Devon **01803 763517** or **07989 527477**

Mid Devon and Exeter **01392 380410**

