

Big changes ahead

Devon County Council is putting people at the heart of everything it does, helping them to decide for themselves what care and support they need to live independently. It is giving people more choice and control over their social care and support and how they want to receive it.

Key to this is ensuring that people have the best advice and information available to them, as well as local support.

Now, people eligible for social care will be offered a 'Personal Budget' and they can choose how that money is spent and on which service or support. People may be asked to pay a contribution towards their care if they can afford to.

It means that people will get the support they choose, how and when they want it. The Council can help to arrange the social care and support, or people can choose to have the money given to them as a 'Direct Payment', for them to arrange the social care and support themselves.

This new way of receiving care gives people greater control, choice and flexibility about the services they need to live independently.

For more information online visit devon.gov.uk/factsheets or devon.gov.uk/puttingpeoplefirst. Or contact Care Direct on **0845 155 1007**.

for adult social

Find out more

If you have not already had an assessment of your social care needs, you should do this first, by ringing Care Direct on **0845 155 1007**.

If you've already been assessed as needing a social care service, or you're already receiving directly provided care and wish to know more about direct payments please email direct.payments@devon.gov.uk or ring **01392 383126**.

There's lots of information on the internet at devon.gov.uk/directpayments and devon.gov.uk/factsheets





Making it happen

After major spinal operations as a child, then a ski-lift accident in later years, Linda now spends most of her time in an electric wheelchair or lying flat in her bed.

Her husband used to be her full-time carer but he became ill and Devon County Council's Adult & Community Services arranged for a local home care agency to start providing care.

Linda has to work her sleep around her medication cycle and this was difficult to fit with the agency carers' schedule – and she didn't like having to go to bed when the sun was still shining.

"All my independence was lost and I wasn't in control of my own life," says Linda. "The carers changed constantly so I wasn't able to build a relationship with any of them."

Then Linda heard about Direct Payments and an Independent Living Adviser visited several times and explained the process of having a Personal Budget and using Direct Payments.

The Direct Payments team has advisers who help people with the paperwork and explain about payroll support and accounting. They can help with advertising for a carer and offer support with arranging an interview as well.

"We explored all the options and talked about what was best for me," says Linda. "I learnt what was expected of the carers, what was expected of me and what I could do with this funding."

Now Linda has two permanent carers whom she employs directly.

"I have 38 hours of care, and I use those hours exactly how I want, so I can be totally flexible, saving up the hours allocated for my carers to go out for a whole day."

"I've become interested in living again," she says. "The things I thought I'd never do again are now a possibility."