

## Guide to Direct Payments

This guide provides you with basic information and an introduction to Direct Payments. For further information please contact your local Direct Payments Support Service, contacts see below.

### What are direct payments?

The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWBA) places a duty on Local Authorities to provide Direct Payments to an individual following an assessment and where there are identified, eligible and agreed needs and outcomes to be achieved. Direct Payments is an alternative to directly provided care and support from the Local Authority.

Direct Payments are monetary amounts paid to individuals, or their representative, to enable them to meet identified, eligible, and agreed care and support outcomes. Direct Payments are not a form of income or benefit you apply for.

Direct Payments enable you to direct how, when and who provides the support, you need in your daily life. They can improve choice, control, and independence for people who want to direct the care and support they may need.

### Eligibility to receive Direct Payments

You must have had an assessment discussing and identifying your strengths, networks, and any support available. You and the social care practitioner will identify where you may require additional support and

where you are eligible to receive support from your Local Authority.

### What are the benefits a Direct Payment?

Using Direct Payments is a personal decision, and you will need to think about everything involved before agreeing to them. Direct Payments may enable you control over your care and support and provide you with the flexibility to maintain your independence in a way that suits you and your lifestyle.

### What help and support is available to me?

Each Local Authority has a Direct Payments Support Service to provide information, advice, and assistance



