

## What can a Direct Payment be used for?

What your Direct Payment is used for will depend on your individual needs and intended outcomes or goals. There is no set list of things you can buy with your Direct Payment, this will be agreed in your assessment and/or Support Plan. Some examples include:

- \* Employment of staff as personal assistants.
- \* Using a domiciliary care agency of your choice.
- \* Community-based short breaks or respite care.
- \* Taking part in community Activities.
- \* Transport and travel.
- \* Domestic and household tasks.

## What can't a Direct Payment be used for?

A Direct Payment cannot be used for health and housing services.

## Contact Information

The Age UK Solihull website can provide you with lots of up to date information on Direct Payments including a useful handbook and links to documents that you can personalise for your own needs.

[www.ageuksolihull.org.uk](http://www.ageuksolihull.org.uk)

Contact the Direct Payments Team

**Telephone** : Direct Line 0121 709 7591  
Community Advice Hub 0121 705 3588

**Email** : [directpayments@ageuksolihull.org.uk](mailto:directpayments@ageuksolihull.org.uk)

### **Face to Face:**

Community Advice Hub (Solihull)  
Thursday 10.00am—2.00pm  
Community Advice Hub (Chelmsley Wood)  
By appointment



Age UK Solihull Registered Charity Number

1055887



## Direct Payments Information and Advice Service



**0121 709 7591**

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# Direct Payments Information and Advice Service

## What are Direct Payments?

Direct Payments are monetary payments made to individuals who request to receive one to meet some or all of their eligible care and support needs.

Direct Payments can be used in a wide range of innovative and creative ways as long as they are safe and legal and meet your assessed needs.

## Who is eligible?

Anyone who is assessed by the Local Authority as needing care and support services can receive a Direct Payment. This can include:

- Older people
- People with physical or learning disabilities, mental health issues or sensory impairment.
- Adults with parental responsibility for a child with a disability.
- A Carer (aged 16+) of someone who has been assessed as needing support.



## What are the advantages of Direct Payments?

Direct Payments can offer you:

- More **independence** and **control** over the care and support you receive.
- **Flexibility** and **choice** over how you receive support and who provides your services to best meet your individual needs.
- Greater **continuity** of care.

## How can we help?

Whether you are already receiving Direct Payments or still trying to decide if the scheme is going to be suitable for you, the Direct Payments team are here to answer your queries. We offer information and advice on:

- Thinking about your support needs.
- Applying for a Direct Payment.
- Managing your Direct Payment.
- Finding a care agency or recruiting a Personal Assistant.
- Meeting your responsibilities and legal obligations as an employer.
- Managing your money through external payroll services.

