

Cheshire West & Chester Council

Direct Payments

Easy read



Enabling
Great Lives



Cheshire West
and Chester

What are Direct Payments?



Direct Payments are **money** from Cheshire West and Chester Council.



You get this money if you need **care or support** from adult social care.



You can use this money to **choose and arrange your own support**.

You can have:

- **A Direct Payment**, or
- **A service from the council**, or
- **Both** together.

Direct Payments **do not affect** your benefits or pension.

What can I use Direct Payments for?

You can use Direct Payments to pay for things like:



- Help at home (like washing, dressing, or cooking)



- Getting out and about (like seeing friends)
- Support for your carer



- Using day opportunities
- Paying a Personal Assistant to help you
- Equipment to help you live more independently
- Short breaks or respite
- Using a small local business (called a micro-enterprise)

How do I get a Direct Payment?



If you already have a **Social Care Worker**, ask them about Direct Payments.

If you don't have one, contact the council to ask for help.



The council will:

1. **Check if you can get support** (this is called an assessment).
2. If you can, they will offer you a **Direct Payment**.



⚠ Not everyone can get a Direct Payment. The council will do an **assessment** to decide if you are eligible.

How do I get the money?



You can choose how to get your Direct Payment:

Pre-Payment Card

(This is like a bank card. The council puts the money on it. You use it to pay for your support.)



Bank Account

(The council sends the money to your account. You use it to pay for your support.)



Managed Account

(If the council thinks you need help managing the money, they can arrange for someone else to look after it for you. This is called a Managed Account.)

What do I need to do?



You will work **with your Social Care Worker** to make a **Care and Support Plan**.

This plan shows how you will use your Direct Payment to meet your care and support needs.



The **Direct Payment Support Service** can help you understand your options and support you through your Direct Payment journey.



You will need to:

- Keep receipts and records** of what you spend.
- Use the money for the support agreed in your plan.

Do I have to pay anything?



Some people need to pay a **contribution** towards their care.



If you do, this money must go into your Direct Payment account.

The council will pay the rest of your budget.



If you don't pay your contribution, there may not be enough money to pay for your support.