

**Direct Payments in
Bath and North East Somerset**
*Giving you control, flexibility
and independence*





Choice

If you are aged 16 or over and have been assessed by Bath and North East Somerset Council as needing community support you can choose Direct Payments.

You can use your Direct Payments in a number of ways:

- assistance in looking after yourself in your own home, for example getting up and going to bed
- support to get out and about in the community, attend college or a social activity
- support to help you communicate more effectively
- to employ someone to give family members a break.

You control the money for your care needs instead of the Council and it won't affect your benefits.

But you can choose to have some of your care from the Council and some through Direct Payments – **it's up to you**. And if you try it and don't like it you can go back to having your care provided by the Council.

You're in control.

How can I get Direct Payments?

A care manager will assess the amount of money you will receive as Direct Payments to meet your needs. Shaw Trust can then provide you with support and guidance around all aspects of using your Direct Payments.

Changing lives

Mandie swapped over to Direct Payments six months ago. She says:

"It has changed my life one hundred percent. It allows me to be in control. However competent an agency and their staff are they can't compare to employing your own team of personal assistants."

Former landscape gardener Tom also uses Direct Payments.

"It's really helped me get my life back on track having my own personal assistant team to come in every day to help me get up, make meals and give me my medication."



Support and guidance

Using Direct Payments often means employing your own staff to provide the assistance you need. This can be daunting but Shaw Trust is there to support you every step of the way.

We can assist you with information about opening a separate bank account, advertising job vacancies, arranging and carrying out interviews, sending for references, providing sample contracts of employment, accessing employer liability insurance and Criminal Record Bureau checks.

We can discuss how to keep records of the hours worked by your employee(s), how to pay your staff and how often to pay them. You will need to be able to pay your staff and the Inland Revenue by cheque or standing order at the bank – we can explain how.

We have an excellent payroll service – any query you have about payroll all you have to do is telephone us.

You can get as much or as little support from Shaw Trust as you like.

You decide what's right for you.

Find out more

Why wait? To find out more contact

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Further publications about Direct Payments are available in alternative formats which can be ordered from the Department of Health by calling 020 7210 4850 or by accessing www.dh.gov.uk/publications

