

What is a Direct Payment?

What you need to know about Direct Payments

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If you are entitled to financial support for your care, one way you can receive this is through a Direct Payment. This can be sent to you or to a chosen person on your behalf. Direct Payments give you more freedom and control over your care.

How much will you get?

If you are assessed by adult social care and deemed eligible for care and support from Buckinghamshire Council, your social worker will agree a personal budget with you. You can choose to have all or part of this paid to you via Direct Payments, or for Buckinghamshire Council to arrange your care instead. If you have more than £23,250 in assets (not including the value of your home) you will not be eligible for financial assistance towards non-residential care.

What can you use your Direct Payment for?

You can only use your Direct Payment for things agreed in your care plan, including:

- Help with daily living or personal care
- Buying services from a care agency
- Arranging short breaks and respite care
- Day activities

How can you receive your Direct Payment?

There are a number of ways in which you can receive your Direct Payment funding.

Direct Payment managed account

This is where another party (commissioned by Buckinghamshire Council) holds a Direct Payment on your behalf. This provider helps you to manage the financial aspects of the Direct Payment, although you will still be responsible for managing your care.

Direct Payment card

This option means you do not need to open a new bank account – instead, Buckinghamshire Council adds money to your pre-paid card every four weeks. You can use this card in shops and online. However, it should only be used to pay for services agreed in your care plan. You cannot use this card to withdraw cash or pay for household expenses.

To receive your Direct Payment in this way, you must be able to remember the PIN and not reveal this to anyone else. However, a nominated person may manage the card on your behalf.

What do you need to know when arranging your own care?

If you are receiving Direct Payments to fund your own care, you may be employing your own staff. As an employer, you must ensure that you are complying with the relevant legislation and are aware of any changes which may affect you. Buckinghamshire Council offers an employment 'health check' to help you with this.

Use this space to write down things you need to remember to tell us

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How to contact us


Adult Care Services

To get more information about adult social care services you can:


-  **Go online:** buckinghamshire.gov.uk and click on 'Care for Adults'
-  **Call:** 01296 383204

Are you worried about somebody?



If you or someone you know is at risk of abuse or neglect:

-  **Call:** 0800 137915 (24 hours a day)

If you would like to give us feedback

-  **Go online:** Please complete the online form at buckinghamshire.gov.uk

If you prefer you can:

-  **Call:** 01296 387844
-  **Email:** complimentsandcomplaints@buckinghamshire.gov.uk