

## What support is available?

The **Children's Direct Payments Support Worker** can offer you support with all areas of becoming an employer. They can visit you at home to discuss issues such as:

- Advertising
- Insurance
- Employment issues like job descriptions, contract of employment, payroll.

**Children's Direct Payment Support Worker**  
**DiPSU, Unit 15, Botany Park**  
**Botany Avenue, Mansfield**  
**Nottinghamshire NG18 5NF**

Office phone: **(01623) 42 35 42**  
Mobile: **07931 240141**

If no one is available please leave a message and they will get back to you.

For more information talk to your Social Worker or see our website  
**[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/directpaymentschildren](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/directpaymentschildren)**

This leaflet is for parents of disabled children and for young disabled people. It is about **Direct Payments for disabled children and young people up to the age of 18, who have already had an assessment of need from us.**

There is also a leaflet called 'Direct Payments from Social Services' for people over the age of 18. You can get a copy from your local council office or the Service Information Team (contact details below).

Contact us if you would like further copies of this publication, or you need the information in a different language or format:



Service Information Team, Adult Social Care and Health, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7QP  
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Nottinghamshire  
County Council

# Introducing Direct Payments for Children and Young People



October 2006

## What are Direct Payments?

A Direct Payment is where we provide the money for you to arrange your own care and support, instead of us providing the service for you.

## Who can have a Direct Payment?

You can have a Direct Payment if your child is disabled and we have agreed that you need a service from us. We pay the money either to the child's parent, or to the young disabled person themselves as long as they are 16 or 17 years old.

To receive a direct payment you must:

- be able to keep account of the money. You can have some help with this if you need it, either from the Direct Payments Support Worker or from another suitable person
- agree to show us what you have spent the money on
- spend the money only in ways that keep your child safe and well.

## What can a Direct Payment be used for?

**Services** – for example home care, befriender or short breaks services

**Equipment** – for example a hoist. (You need to talk to your Occupational Therapist rather than your Social Worker about this)

**You can only use direct payments for services and equipment that we would provide following an assessment.**

## How do Direct Payments work?

- Following an assessment, discuss having a Direct Payment with your Social Worker, rather than us providing the service.
- Talk to the Children's Direct Payment Support Worker and discuss what it will mean for you. Will you need to find a carer? Do you already know someone who may be suitable?
- Your Social Worker will tell you how much money you have available over a year.
- If you are employing someone, even if you already know them, you need to:
  - ▶ ensure that they are suitable for the job
  - ▶ arrange for a proper contract of employment.

The Children's Direct Payment support worker can help you with employment issues.

- If your child is 16 years old or over, they can be the employer if they choose.
- Once you have someone to work for you, the money is paid to you in advance.
- You decide exactly when you have the service to make it fit better with your family life.
- Your Social Worker will stay in touch to make sure that the service is working well.
- We will review your Direct Payment each year to make sure it is still meeting your needs.