

If you have been offered a **Direct Payment**,  
it must be your decision to go ahead.

If you would like to make your own support  
arrangements, please let your  
social care or health professional know,  
please telephone

**Care Direct**

0345 155 1007

If you would like to discuss the option of taking a  
Direct Payment in some more detail,  
please telephone **Care Direct** and ask for the

**Arranging Support Team**

## Arranging your own Support

**What you need to know before you  
take a Direct Payment**

If you have support needs assessed by a health or social care professional and are eligible for financial assistance from Devon County Council or the NHS, the cost of that support will be described as your **Personal Budget**. The support can be delivered in a number of ways depending on your needs and preferences. The Council can make the arrangements for you or you can take responsibility for some or all of them yourself, maybe with the help of someone you know. This is **Self-Directed Support**.

You will develop your support plan with your health or social care professional and you will take charge of the money once the actual cost is known. The money, called a **Direct Payment**, will be available to you through a **Devon Card**, the Council's way of giving people direct access to their Personal Budget. You will take full responsibility for arranging the support you need with providers.

Your Personal Budget can only be spent on activities that meet your health and social care needs. But by taking control of your Personal Budget, you can explore more creative and innovative ways of achieving the goals agreed in your support plan. This means more choice about who provides your support and more control over how it is provided.

### What does this mean for you?

With more control comes various responsibilities:

- you must be able to understand the contractual arrangements with your individual providers
- you must have contingency plans in place to always ensure you have support even when your usual provider is unavailable
- you must, if you choose to take on a Personal Assistant, understand all the responsibilities you will have as an employer and manage them well.

### You, or the person who will manage on your behalf

- will be given written guidance
- will have support from the Council to get the Direct Payment set up and to guide you through the initial stages of arranging your own support
- can have some financial support to administer the Personal Budget.

### But remember

all the responsibilities for your support arrangements and their management will transfer from the Council to you.