

Direct Payments

An easy read guide



Empowering and enabling people to live fulfilled and independent lives through choice

Southwark Council is committed to provide choice to all our residents

What is a Direct Payment?

A direct payment is the amount of money allocated to meet your assessed care and support needs.

Who can have a Direct Payment?

Direct Payments are available for both Adults and Children who have been assessed by Southwark Council.

What can I use my Direct Payment for?

Direct Payments allows you to purchase the support needed to meet outcomes identified in your care and or support plan.

What can't I use my Direct Payment for?

The law says you cannot spend the money on:

- Employing people that live in the same household as you, or your spouse or parent unless the council decides this is the only way for you to get the support you require.
- Household bills.
- Services already paid for by Southwark Council.
- Housing.
- Long Term Residential care.
- Health services.



How do I receive my Direct Payment?

The Direct Payment is paid via a prepaid card* to purchase the support you need directly.

Do I need to keep records?

Yes, we have to make sure that you are using your Direct Payment in line with your care plan so you will need to keep a record of what you spend and proof of what it was for.















Who can support me?

You may get assistance from a trusted friend, family member or organisation of your choice to help you manage your Direct Payment.

What are the next steps?

- Complete a care and support assessment with your social worker.
- Complete a financial assessment form (You may be required to pay a financial contribution towards assessed care needs).
- If you are eligible for a Direct Payment, you will need to complete and sign the Personal Budget Agreement and Prepaid Card Agreement.


Useful contacts and information

| Organisation | Contact details |
|---|---|
| Southwark Council |  Website: southwark.gov.uk/social-care-and-support/adult-social-care/care-and-support-from-the-council/adults-with-care-needs |
| Lewisham and Southwark Age UK |  Tel no: 020 7701 9700  Website: ageuk.org.uk/lewishamandsouthwark/ |
| Money Helper (formerly called The Money Advice Service) |  Tel no: 0800 138 7777  Website: moneyhelper.org.uk/en |
| Citizens Advice Southwark |  Tel no: 0344 499 4134 Website: citizensadvice.org.uk/southwark/ |
| Southwark Disablement Association (for adults with physical disabilities) |  Tel no: 020 7358 7744  Website: sdail.org/ |
| Southwark Information and Advice Team |  Tel no: 020 7525 3104  Website: localoffer.southwark.gov.uk/ |
| Southwark Wellbeing Hub (for adults with a mental illness) |  Tel no: 020 3751 9684  Website: together-uk.org/southwark-wellbeing-hub/ |
| HMRC – Employing staff for the first time |  Website: gov.uk/employing-staff |
| Skills for care |  Website: skillsforcare.org.uk/Home.aspx |


Southwark Council Social Work Teams

Older Personal & Physical Disabilities

 Tel no: 0207 525 3324

 Email:
OPPDContactteam@southwark.gov.uk

Learning Disabilities

 Tel no: 0207 525 2333

 Email:
LearningDisabilitiesDuty@southwark.gov.uk

All Age Disabilities (0-25)

 Tel no: 0207 525 5372

 Email: AADDuty@southwark.gov.uk

Mental Health

 Tel no: 020 7525 2751

 Email: MHCAST@southwark.gov.uk

All Age Disabilities (0-25)

 Tel no: 0207 525 5372

 Email: AADDuty@southwark.gov.uk