Personal budgets and payments

This leaflet is available in accessible formats. Contact the council for details.
Direct payments
Direct payments give you lots of control over your care and support. You can decide how your needs are met and buy the support that suits you best.

It’s important to spend your direct payments carefully, making sure that you cover all the needs shown in your assessment. Your care worker will help you make your decisions and our Direct Payment Support Team is here to help with questions about your payments. Most people prefer us to pay their money as a ‘direct payment’.

Managing your money
There are different ways to receive your direct payments. We will help you to choose the option that is safe and easy for you to manage and gives you as much independence as possible.

1. An Instant Access Account: the council will help you protect your account and keep track of your spending.
2. A Standard Direct Payment: you take responsibility for keeping spending records which the council will check.
3. An Indirect Payment: a relative, or advocate takes responsibility for keeping spending records which the council will check.
4. A Money Management Service: payments are made to your care and support provider who will manage them in line with your assessment.

There are a few rules about how you can spend your direct payment but as long as your spending is legal and relates to the care and support needs as agreed in your care plan, it is usually fine.

We will need to see you within the first 6-8 weeks after your first direct payment and again if you need more help or advice. We will then review your payment regularly (at least once every year).