



**Easy Read Version
of
Neath Port Talbot Council's
Direct Payments Policy 2024**



What is the Policy about?



The Policy describes how Neath Port Talbot Council will provide Direct Payments to people who have an assessed social care and support need.



The Policy tells us how the Council will make sure people with assessed care and support needs can access services that maximise their choice and control. Direct Payments allow the recipient to choose how their needs are met, instead of the Council arranging care for them.



This Policy will apply to people who already receive care and support services as well as people who may need care and support in the future.

What does Neath Port Talbot Council want out of the Policy?

We want to make sure that the most vulnerable adults and their unpaid carers in Neath Port Talbot have the right amount of help to meet their care and support needs.

An unpaid carer is someone who looks after a family member, partner or friend with a health or social care need, and the care they give is unpaid.

A Direct Payment means that a person can arrange the care and support they want rather than the Council arrange it for them. The value of the Direct Payment will be similar to the amount it will cost the Council to arrange the care.

This will be reviewed each year to make sure it still meets identified eligible needs.

If the recipient wants care and support in a different way or one that costs more than what the Council assesses as being able to meet their needs, they may have to pay any additional costs.

Our Aim

The Council wants to help its most vulnerable citizens and make sure those who need support get it.

We want to do this in a way that is fair to all those in need.

When assessing or re-assessing someone's needs, the Council will take into account the social care resources available to it when considering how those needs might be met.

We want to make sure that those who need care and support most can access services.

We will offer people choice and control over the services that can best meet their assessed needs and desired outcomes in a way that is sustainable.

Who will be affected by this Policy?

We will look at what services a person needs as part of their Care and Support Plan assessment and their Carer's Assessment.

We will also look at a person's needs as part of their Care and Support Plan review and the review of the Carer's Assessment to see if their needs and outcomes have changed, or if their needs can be met by a different type of service.

This means that people currently having care and support and those who might need it in the future will be affected by this Policy.

More about Direct Payments

Direct Payments are cash payments given to you by the Council to arrange and pay for your own care and support instead of the Council arranging services for you.

They allow you to choose and control who supports you and how, when and where this support is provided.

This means:

- You control the decisions that affect your life
- Day-to-day control of the money and provision of your care is given to you
- You have flexibility and choice, enabling you to purchase support that is best suited to your needs and what you want

Direct Payments must be used to meet your social care and support needs as described in your Assessment, and could be spent on things like:

- Residential care
- Purchase certain equipment or adaptations
- A sitting service, so that someone can look after the person you care for at home, while you go out during the day or night
- Access to leisure services
- Support services from an agency

Employing a Personal Assistant to provide care and support is one of the most common ways people choose to use Direct Payments.

The Council's Direct Payments Support Service can give you help and advice around employing a Personal Assistant.