



**Easy Read Version
of
Neath Port Talbot Council's
Adult Services Respite
Allocation Policy 2019**



What is the Policy about?



The Policy describes how Neath Port Talbot Council will provide respite services to unpaid carers who have an assessed social care and support need.



The Policy tells us how the Council will make sure carers of adults receive support that meets their assessed needs in ways which are fair to all. If a person wants more or more expensive services than they need we will offer a direct payment and they can choose to pay the extra cost.



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



This Policy is a draft written by staff from Neath Port Talbot Council and we would like to know your views to develop a final policy.



We welcome feedback from all. We will keep individuals, their families, carers and others updated via forums including Carers Meetings, and information on the NPT website.

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 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.

Currently, unpaid carers with an assessed support need receive up to 16, up to 36, or up to 56 nights respite per year.

We propose removing these bandings. Instead, the unpaid carer will be offered a number of nights according to their assessed need.

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

If an unpaid carer wants a service that costs more than what the Council assesses as being able to meet their needs, they may be entitled to receive a Direct Payment (see page 4 below).

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 an unpaid carer'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 respite most can access support 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 using respite services and those who might need them 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 needs as described in your Carer's Assessment, and could be spent on things like:

- 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

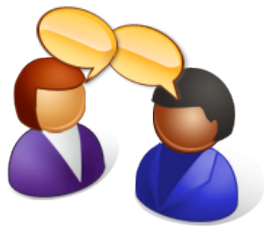
Employing a Personal Assistant to support with the above tasks is one of the most common ways people choose to use Direct Payments.

The Council's Direct Payments Support Service can identify approved support providers who can take care of the responsibility of employing a Personal Assistant.

How will the Council collect views and opinions?



The Council will be collecting views and opinions on this Policy in different ways:



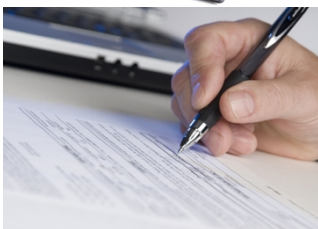
Focus group meetings will be arranged during the consultation. It will be an opportunity to find out more about the Policy, ask questions and give your views.



Paper copies of the Policy and feedback form will be available in Neath Civic Centre, Port Talbot Civic Centre and The Quays reception areas, as well as respite and pan-disability day services.



On the Council's website:
www.npt.gov.uk/haveyoursay
Or email us: CCU@npt.gov.uk



You can write to us or complete the feedback form at the end of the consultation booklet. Letters and forms can be posted to:

Neath Port Talbot Council
Social Services Commissioning Unit
Neath Civic Centre
Neath SA11 3QZ