



**Easy Read Version  
of  
Neath Port Talbot Council's  
Fairness of Adult Service  
Provision Policy 2019**



# What is the Policy about?



The Policy describes how Neath Port Talbot Council will provide services to adults that have an assessed social care need.



The Policy tells us how the Council will make sure adults receive services that meet 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 services as well as people who may need services in the future.

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

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

If a person 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.

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

If they want services that cost more than those that the Council has assessed as being able to meet their needs, the person might have to pay the difference between the Direct Payment and the cost of the service.

## **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 your needs, the Council will take into account the social care resources available to it when considering how those needs might be met.

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.

We will also look at a person's needs as part of their Care and Support Plan review 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 services and those who might need them in the future will be affected by this Policy.

## Examples

**Ms. A** has cognitive and some mental health issues resulting from a stroke. She has been attending a day service for several years. The original intention was that she would learn greater self-care skills, but this isn't happening and, in effect, her going there just provides a break for her parents.

An updated assessment identifies her current needs, and her desire to learn to be more self-sufficient, and a number of options are identified nearer to her home, from which she chooses (with her parents' help.) At the new provision, she is pleased to be helped to learn and hopes eventually to get to the stage of moving into supported living in the community.

**Mr. B's** assessed needs can be met by him accessing day services and a number of suitable services are available in the locality of his home. Mr. B would like to go to a service provided in Swansea, which costs a lot more than local services and there would be transport costs associated with it. Mr. B and his family are able and willing to pay the extra costs, so a Direct Payment is made to Mr B, equivalent to the cost of the local provision, so that he can make a choice, and he uses this towards the cost of going to his preferred provider.

## 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 care 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 Care and Support Plan, and could be spent on things like:

- Personal care (e.g. help to get washed and dressed)
- Social activities (e.g. attending community groups)
- Purchasing support equipment
- 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.