Sefton Council

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Good
Care Quality Commission

# Understanding Direct Payments


Learn about managing your own care funds


**Direct Payments** are money from the **Council**. They help you arrange your own care services. This gives you more choice and independence.


You can get Direct Payments if you have a care assessment and the **Council** agrees you need social care. You also need a care support plan.

Direct Payments are for adults with care needs or a trusted person who can manage the payments. You must have less than £23,250 in savings.

To get Direct Payments, you need to understand what care you need. You also need to manage the money or have someone help you.

You can use the money to buy services in your care plan. This includes hiring a **Personal Assistant** or getting help from agencies.

You cannot use Direct Payments to pay family members living with you. You manage the money using a special card.


When you take Direct Payments, you sign an agreement with the **Council**. You must keep records of spending and use the money as agreed.

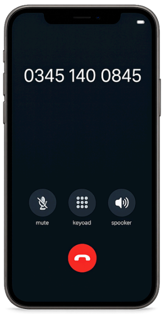
If you hire a **Personal Assistant**, you become an employer. You must follow the law, keep records, and understand contracts.

The **Sefton Carers Centre** can help you set up Direct Payments and hire **Personal Assistants**. They offer advice on legal matters and payroll.

The **Self-Directed Support Team** helps you manage the money and ensures you get the correct funding. They can check your spending records.

You may need to pay towards your care depending on your finances. You can employ anyone over 18, except family living with you.

To start with Direct Payments, contact **Sefton Council** for a care needs assessment. More information is on their website or by calling their team.

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