

**Contact Access and Inclusion - Childrens Disability  
Service at:**

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Church Square House,  
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North Lincolnshire  
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Tel: (01724) 407988

*If you require this leaflet in another format / font or language  
please contact us.*

**North  
Lincolnshire  
Council**

[www.northlincs.gov.uk](http://www.northlincs.gov.uk)

**Support Services for Disabled Children  
and their Families**

Learning Skills and Culture  
Access and Inclusion  
Children's Disability Service

Guide to  
**DIRECT PAYMENTS**

## **What is a Direct Payment?**

A Direct Payment is a sum of money to pay for services as an alternative to those provided by your local authority

People who get this money must use it to arrange services to meet their child's and families assessed needs.

## **Who can receive a Direct Payment?**

A Direct Payment can be paid to:

A disabled young person aged 16/17 years

A parent /carer with parental responsibility for a disabled child or young person up to 18 years of age

## **How do I get a Direct Payment?**

In order to Qualify for a Direct Payment you:

Must first have an assessment of need

Be willing and able to manage a Direct Payment and to choose appropriate services, alone or with support.

## **What can I use my Direct Payment for?**

Your Direct Payment must be used to buy the support / services to meet the needs that have been identified for your child and family in your assessment.

You can:

Decide how you want your services provided, arranging to have them at a time to suit yourself

Choose who provides them, either employing your own staff or buying from a private agency

Examples of this could be:

Short breaks for your child through them attending some activities in the community

Home Care support

An individual package of support

Because we have a duty to promote and safeguard the welfare of all children and young people and because disabled children can be particularly vulnerable we would expect that any employees or agencies paid for through Direct Payments will be appropriately checked and approved.

## **Will my Payment affect my benefit entitlement or the tax I have to pay?**

Direct Payments do not affect your benefits or tax position. They are separate funds provided to buy the care and support services you have been assessed as needing. They do not form any part of your income and so do not have to be declared either for benefits or tax entitlement.

Finally, everyone who chooses Direct Payments to arrange their support /services must be willing to sign an agreement to follow North Lincolnshire Council's regulations about how they should be used.

For Further help and advice on Direct Payments  
Contact the Short Breaks and Support Service on  
01724 407988.