

# **Direct Payments for Children with disabilities**

## ***What are Direct Payments?***

Direct payments have been set up to give people with parental responsibility for a disabled child, the entitlement to receive money to pay for services themselves, instead of the Central Bedfordshire Council arranging them on their behalf.

## ***What services can Direct Payments be used for?***

- Personal care in the child's own home
- Sessional support for a child taking part in recreational, leisure, cultural or sporting activities
- Family based short break care
- Residential short break care
- Holiday support.

For guidelines about each of the above services, please contact your social worker.

## ***What services can't they be used for?***

- Service provided by the local council
- Services that are the responsibility of other agencies, for example NHS trusts or schools
- Long term residential care

## ***What if my child's needs change?***

Direct payments arrangements are reviewed every 6 months. A review could result in the arrangements continuing unchanged or being increased or decreased.

## ***How can I access direct payments?***

The needs of your child and your family will be assessed or reviewed in the usual way by a social worker, and the level of service to meet those needs will be determined.

If your child has a social worker and you would like to know more about accessing direct payments please contact her/him.

If your child does not have a social worker, contact Children with Disabilities Team Duty Officer 0300 300 8169 for more information about assessment.

### ***Can I be refused a direct payment?***

The local authority can refuse a direct payment if:

The service the parent wishes to purchase would not meet the child's needs

A parent refuses to obtain a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Check on a potential personal assistant or sessional support worker

A parent wishes to employ someone who does not have a satisfactory outcome to their CRB Check

It does not appear that the parent is capable of managing the payments

### ***Further information***

- See the [Frequently asked questions](#) page
- Department of Health  
[http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod\\_consum\\_dh/groups/dh\\_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh\\_105147.pdf](http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_105147.pdf)