

DIRECT PAYMENTS

On Thursday 27th April we held a Direct Payments workshop which allowed both professionals and carers to share their experience and learn together.

Our recent direct payments workshop was a huge success, providing valuable information to carers and highlighting the many benefits of utilizing direct payments. For those who may not know, direct payments are a way for carers to receive funding from the government to pay for the support they need to care for their loved ones at home. During the workshop, attendees were able to learn about the different ways to use direct payments, as well as how to apply and manage the funds.

Other carers who have used direct payments to help them care for their loved ones, shared their experiences and how it has positively impacted their lives.

One of the main benefits of direct payments is that it allows carers to have more control over the support they receive. Rather than being assigned a certain provider, carers can choose the provider that best meets their needs, whether it be a professional care agency or a personal support worker. This allows them to find someone who they trust and who they feel comfortable working with.

Direct payments also offer flexibility in terms of when and how support is provided. Carers may be able to use the funds to pay for things like respite care, transportation, or even home modifications, depending on what they need to best care for their loved ones. This can help to reduce stress and improve the quality of life for both the carer and the person they are caring for.

Attending our workshop is highly recommended for anyone who is currently a carer or who may become a carer in the future. It's a great opportunity to learn more about this valuable resource and how it can benefit you and your loved ones. You'll have the chance to ask questions, hear from other carers, and get practical advice on how to apply for and manage direct payments.



Overall, our recent direct payments workshop was a huge success, and we're excited to continue to offer these types of events in the future. If you're a carer, or if you know someone who is, we encourage you to attend our next workshop.

A final big thank you to Brett from [Dewis](#) for his enlightening talk about his first hand experience using Direct Payments. Also thank you to the [All Wales Forum](#) for sending two representatives.



WHAT WAS SAID...

Direct Payments are a right not a privilege!

People's support needs vary and no one size fits all so Direct payments allow the individual to enjoy a personalised support approach rather than having to fit what is on offer by agencies or services

Direct Payments (DP's) enable you to recruit a Personal Assistant (PA) who shares the same interests and activities as your relative. This could be a friend or sometimes a family member You can employ a PA at times and days that you need, not having to rely on agency workers availability and workloads

Recruiting PA's can be straightforward or difficult given the shortage of staff in the social workforce and competition from the private sector, but many people enjoy the opportunity to work closely with one or a few individuals so don't be deterred. You can also advertise via social media.

Having a regular PA who knows your relative well can open up lots of opportunities and activities and helps build trust

Dewis can help with all of the logistical issues in recruiting or 'employing a PA including any HR issues. In practice difficulties are rare

Different authorities (and sometimes staff) may interpret what you can and cannot use DP's for – advice and support is available to help you negotiate what you need. In spite of this, many Welsh councils may still be less flexible than others – help is available. You can mix DP's with existing service support

To claim a DP involves an assessment of needs- preparing for this is the key to getting the hours you need. Knowledge is power and speaking to other carers and professional bodies will help you get the package you need

Using DP's right now may seem daunting and not for you at the moment but being aware of the possibilities costs nothing and could open up opportunities in the future so don't write them off.



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Get in touch to find out more



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