

## Direct Payments and additional costs

### Fact Sheet 31

(October 2023)

**This fact sheet is for individuals who receive or are going to receive a direct payment and want to incur additional costs. In relation to what Direct Payments are, who is eligible for the scheme, how to use it and what support is available, please see Factsheet 5.**

#### **Direct Payments and Additional Costs**

If you decide you would like a direct payment, then Carmarthenshire County Council will ensure that that direct payment is sufficient to meet your assessed and eligible care and support needs.

However, you may want to purchase a more expensive piece of equipment, a more expensive care provider, or pay your employee a higher wage than Carmarthenshire County Council would pay to meet your needs.

If you want to pay for a more expensive version of something you are assessed as needing within your care and support plan, then you will be expected to pay the difference between the amount which the Council would pay and that which you want to pay.

If you do decide to employ a personal assistant to meet your identified eligible care and support needs, and you must ensure that you do not pay your personal assistant all the direct payment monies we give to you. This is because part of the direct payment monies must be kept back for other things like training, pension costs, tax etc. We can advise you on what amount of money you should expect to pay your personal assistant.

In addition, if you do decide to employ a personal assistant, we would advise you not to prevent your personal assistant from their legal entitlements such as annual leave.

#### **If you would like to find out more about Direct Payments:**

Contact your Social Worker if you have one or if you would like to receive an assessment of your care needs you can contact the Information and Advice and Assistance Service via:

- phone: 0300 333 2222 or
- minicom on:01554 756741
- SMS: 0789 2345678
- making a referral through our website [www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/Socialcare](http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/Socialcare)

**This factsheet is also available in Welsh.**  
**If you would like this factsheet in any other format**  
**telephone 01267 228703 or**  
**Email: [socialcare@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:socialcare@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)**



For more information on social care services log onto:  
[www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/socialcare](http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/socialcare)