

Leeds Centre for Integrated Living

*Choice and control for disabled people*

# Direct payments

## and Independent Living Fund

**Freedom to choose the support  
you need to live independently**



## **ASIST**

**actively seeking independence  
support team**

## **What are direct payments?**

Direct payments are for people who are eligible for care services from Leeds Social Services, such as home care. Instead of providing a service the local authority can give you the money. You can use this money to buy the services yourself, in the way and at the times that suit you best. You decide who gives the care, and how and when they work with you. Direct payments mean that you are in charge.

## **Who can have direct payments?**

Most people who are eligible for care from Social Services can receive direct payments. If you are not a current service user but think you might be eligible for care services, you will have to be assessed to find out whether direct payments are best for you. If you are a parent/carer of a disabled child you may be eligible for money to pay for the care they need.

## **What can I use direct payments for?**

Use your direct payments to pay for any care you have been assessed as needing. For example,

- ◆ you can use them to employ your own support worker, usually called a personal assistant
- ◆ you can buy care from a care agency
- ◆ you can pay for equipment
- ◆ you can use it to pay for a short break

## **What is the Independent Living Fund?**

Some people who need a lot of support can get money from the Independent Living Fund (ILF). ILF is money paid directly to you and can be used in a similar way to direct payments to buy services.

## **What responsibilities will I have?**

If you choose direct payments or ILF you can only use the money to pay for the care for which you have been assessed.

You will have to keep records and show how the money is being used, as well as keeping to laws and regulations about employing staff.

## **What kind of support can I expect?**

ASIST is the support team based at Leeds Centre for Integrated Living for people using direct payments and ILF. We can provide advice and help with things like finding someone to be your personal assistant, employing and managing them, keeping simple records and paying your personal assistant. You decide how much or how little support you need.

**Lots of people are successfully using direct payments and ILF in Leeds, most of whom have never done anything like this before.**

## What do people receiving direct payments have to say about it?

"The carer I employ through direct payments enables me to be more independent."

"It has given me a new lease of life being able to get about more"

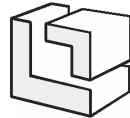
"The [support] service has been and remains supportive. Direct payments has enabled me to take control and improve my life."

"Its all about control..."

## How can I find out more?

For more information and to speak to the support team, contact ASIST at

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Leeds LS12 3QH



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