



Freedom of Information Request FOI1736

Request:

Please could you provide answers to the following questions or if you have any queries my telephone number is shown below.

1. What is your local authorities criteria for children and young people to access a direct payment?
2. How many children and young people do you have in your local authority accessing a direct payment?
3. Please can you provide a broad outline of the services that families use the direct payment for?
4. Please could you identify how the direct payment is managed?
 - a. the family manage the money through a separate bank account and the spend is audited by the local authority
 - b. a third party manages the account on behalf of the family
 - c. the local authority provides the direct payment on a pre-paid card which the family uses to pay for services
 - d. the local authority manage an account for each family and pay for services
 - e. other " please provide further details
5. What support do you provide to families to identify what their direct payment will be used for?
6. What is the highest value direct payment package that is funded by your Local Authority?
7. What is the lowest value direct payment package that is funded by your Local Authority?
8. What is the average value direct payment package that is funded by your Local Authority?
9. Who is involved in the decision making process as to whether a family will be awarded a direct payment?
10. Does your local authority employ a third party to provide employment and recruitment support and advice for personal assistants?
11. Do you advertise personal assistants on your website?
12. What short break provision does your local authority commission?
13. If a family is not able to manage a direct payment what alternatives are available to enable a family to access a short break?
14. How many children and young people do you have accessing a personal budget in your local authority?

Submitted on 17/09/19.

Response:

Please could you provide answers to the following questions or if you have any queries my telephone number is shown below.

1. What is your local authorities criteria for children and young people to access a direct payment?

If a child or young person with a disability is assessed as requiring support from Children's Services because their needs cannot be met by Universal or Early Help services, as detailed within the Local Offer, then a Direct



Payment could be provided, rather than a commissioned service. Direct Payments enable better choice and control of how identified needs are met.

2. How many children and young people do you have in your local authority accessing a direct payment?

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3. Please can you provide a broad outline of the services that families use the direct payment for?

Direct Payments are used to provide Personal Assistant support either through the day or overnight, as well as outreach support by providers, play-schemes, agency staff or if necessary, additional transport costs.

4. Please could you identify how the direct payment is managed?
- the family manage the money through a separate bank account and the spend is audited by the local authority
 - a third party manages the account on behalf of the family
 - the local authority provides the direct payment on a pre-paid card which the family uses to pay for services
 - the local authority manage an account for each family and pay for services
 - other - please provide further details

This can be either client managed or council managed, all via a pre-paid card. We do have some clients who utilise a conventional bank account, however, we are supporting them to move to our prepaid card system.

5. What support do you provide to families to identify what their direct payment will be used for?

Direct Payments are used to provide Personal Assistant support, either through the day or overnight, as well as outreach support by providers, overnight short breaks, play-schemes or if necessary, additional transport costs.

6. What is the highest value direct payment package that is funded by your Local Authority?

Weekly payment of £1363.25

7. What is the lowest value direct payment package that is funded by your Local Authority?

Weekly payment of £19.72

8. What is the average value direct payment package that is funded by your Local Authority?

Weekly average payment of £102.35

9. Who is involved in the decision making process as to whether a family will be awarded a direct payment?

Social Worker and Community Well-being Officers who carry out assessments on behalf of North Tyneside Council

10. Does your local authority employ a third party to provide employment and recruitment support and advice for personal assistants?

We do not employ a company, however, we advise individual's to access these companies for support and fund that support within the Direct payment. The support services list can be found here:

<https://mycare.northtyneside.gov.uk/web/portal/pages/help/facts/factsheet16>

11. Do you advertise personal assistants on your website?

No



North Tyneside Council

12. What short break provision does your local authority commission?

See the North Tyneside Local Offer for details: <https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/1258/social-care>

13. If a family is not able to manage a direct payment what alternatives are available to enable a family to access a short break?

If a family is unable to manage a Direct Payment then the Local Authority can commission short breaks on their behalf.

14. How many children and young people do you have accessing a personal budget in your local authority?

this information is published nationally at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statements-of-sen-and-ehc-plans-england-2019> specifically table 10.