



Reference: FOI2945

Request:

In the interest of clarity, when I refer to Direct Payment recipients, I refer specifically to adults and children (and their families) in receipt of a Direct Payment from the council to meet their assessed care needs. I will refer to this group as Direct Payment recipients/employers.

1) How many people are currently receiving Direct Payments/Personal Budgets across the Authority?

472 Local Authority funded Direct Payment clients

2) How is this split between adult and children direct payment recipients?

374 in Adults and 77 in Children's

3) Is there a central function that looks after these people or are they split into teams/locations?

The Direct Payments Team support these clients along with their allocated Social Worker or Community Wellbeing Officer

4) If there is a central function who is the main contact for this function?

Business Process Manager - Colin Strutt

5) If split into teams or locations who are the people who head up these teams?

Whole Life Disability - Joanne Safe, Coast and Central Community Team - Susan Mullen, North West and South West Community Team Mike Wilson

6) Does the Authority hold a contract for the provision of a support service to people receiving direct payments/personal budgets?

We do not have a contract, but do have an accredited list of support providers

7) If so, who is this contract with?

Link to support providers is:

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

8) If not, does the Authority provide its own support service to people receiving direct payments? (e.g. to provide support for recruitment of Personal Assistants)

N/A

9) Does the Authority hold a contract for the provision of payroll services to people receiving direct payments/personal budgets?

We do not have a contract, but do have an accredited list of support providers

10) If so, who is this contract with?

Link to support providers is:

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



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11) If not, does the Authority provide its own payroll service to people receiving direct payments?

N/A

12) For people receiving direct payments who choose not to manage the payment themselves what provision does the authority make?

North Tyneside Council offer an in house managed account service to pay invoices, PA's and relevant statutory payments on behalf of the client

13) Can direct payment recipients choose to use another organisation to provide the support service and/or payroll service, and fund it from their budget?

Yes

14) Does the Authority have a list of approved providers that the employer can choose to use for recruitment and direct payment support? If so, please could you provide a list of the approved providers. What costs are available to the direct payment recipient for this?

Link to support providers is:

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

15) Does the Authority consult with disabled people's/user led organisations in the provision of Direct Payment Support and/or payroll services? If so, how often do you consult and how?

We discuss Direct Payment with the Learning Disabilities Forum which meets on a quarterly basis

16) With regards to managing a Direct payment, do direct payment recipients/employers have the following options to manage the funds:

a) Managed payroll account with a third party organisation? If so, who provides this?

North Tyneside Council offer this service, no third party is involved

b) Bank account where the funds are paid directly to the employer into their own separate account?

Yes, but we encourage a prepaid card account as first option

c) Prepaid card account? If so, how many people have a card and how much do prepayment cards cost per direct payment recipients?

Yes, 370 clients use our Prepaid Card system, there is no cost to the service user for a prepaid card

17) Does the Authority set a capped hourly rate for those direct payment recipients employing a Personal Assistant (PA)? If so, what is this rate?

Current rate is £8.75 in line with North Tyneside Living Wage

18) Does the Authority have a capped hourly rate for those direct payment recipients contracting with agencies? If so, what are those rates?

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Yes we have capped rates but this is dependent on location and complexity

- * General Care Zone 1-4 = £16.81
- * Enhanced Care Zone 1-4 = £17.54
- * General Care Zone 5-6 = £18.50
- * Enhanced Care Zone 5-6 = £19.23

19) Is there a capped rate for funding day care and respite? If so, what are these rates?
No this depends on the rate agreed with the provider / Social Worker

20) Does the Authority have block contracts with respite providers? If so, who are these contracts with?

We have one block contract with Flexible Support Options

21) What choice are individuals offered in relation to respite provision? Is there a provider list?

Clients have flexibility to choose respite provision in line with their indicative respite budget. No there is no list of providers

22) Does the authority have fixed rates for individuals using their direct payment for respite? Is this capped, and if so what amount is it capped at?

No