

# Direct Payments

## An easy guide



### Direct Payments

If you are eligible for financial assistance to help pay for your care and support you can choose to have a Direct Payment which is an amount of money you can use to organise the support you need yourself, including directly employing support staff.

### Support Planning

- Your support plan details the care and support you have chosen and the amount of money approved for you to arrange your support (Personal Budget, or PB). Your Social Worker will have written this with your input and you should have a copy.
- Your Social Worker should also have given you a Direct Payment agreement to sign. This details the agreement between the Council and you, or your representative, with regards to the Direct Payment.
- With your consent, your Social Worker can then refer you to Action on Disability's Direct Payment Support Service for support.

### Setting up Care and Support

- Once the plan is approved we can assist you in finding support and help you to think about ways to use your Direct Payment creatively.
- We can support you in your role as an employer (if needed) and set up payroll services to help you pay them accurately.
- We can signpost you to specialist services or providers and local community services which may provide support.
- We can introduce you to other people who use a Direct Payment.

### Do you already receive a Direct Payment?

You can self-refer into the service by contacting us on the details below.

For more information contact the Direct Payment Support team:

 **020 3080 0380**

 **dpsupport@aod.org.uk**

 **www.aod.org.uk**