

# It's your choice



You do not have to have Direct Payments. A social worker can still take care of things for you.

Some people decide to use Direct Payments for some things and ask a social worker to sort the rest.



If you decide to try out Direct Payments you can still change your mind - just let us know.

# Direct Payments Your life. Your choice.



If you want to know more:  
Call the Learning Disability Team on:

01432 260320

Or your Local Neighbourhood Team on:

01432 260000

This leaflet has been produced by the People's Union on behalf of the Valuing People Partnership Board, with funding from the local area based grant learning disability development fund and capital fund. The People's Union is supported by HPAN, Charity No: 1043947 ©HPAN 2011

Direct payments can be a way for you to have more choice over how you live your life.

An easy read guide for people with learning disabilities in Herefordshire.



# What are Direct Payments?

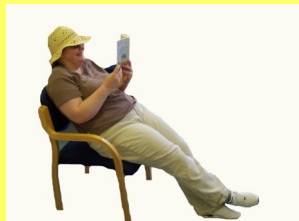
Direct payments are sums of money paid from the Wye Valley NHS trust so you can sort out and pay for your own care and support.



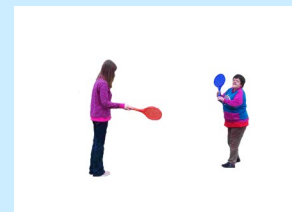
You can use Direct Payments to pay people or agencies to help you with things like:



Support in your own home



Having a break



Doing activities

# What they can help with

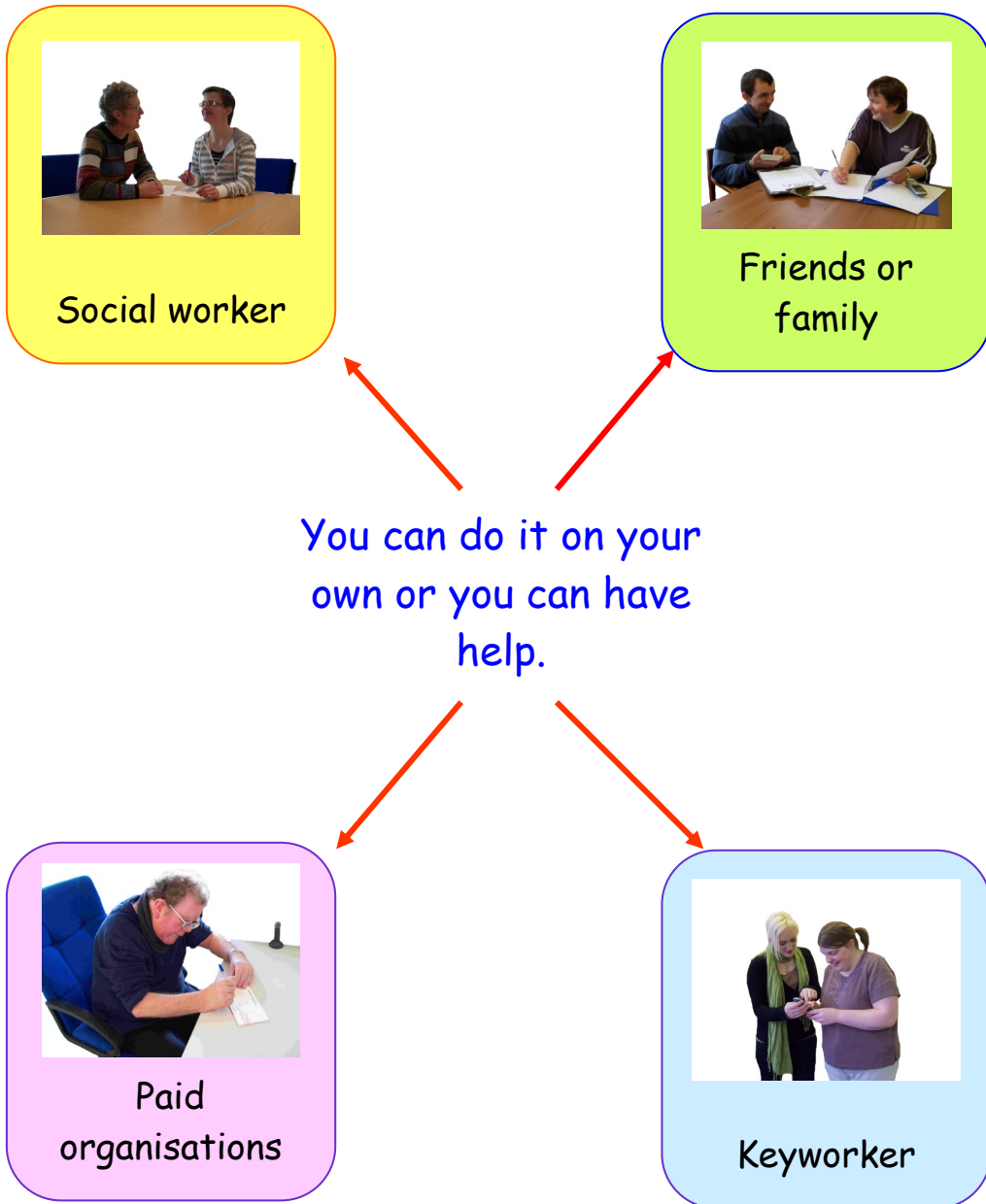


## Will I need to pay anything myself?

After a financial assessment you may be charged for some of the services.

# You do not have to do it on your own

# Who can have Direct Payments?



You can only have Direct Payments after you have had an assessment by the Wye Valley NHS trust.



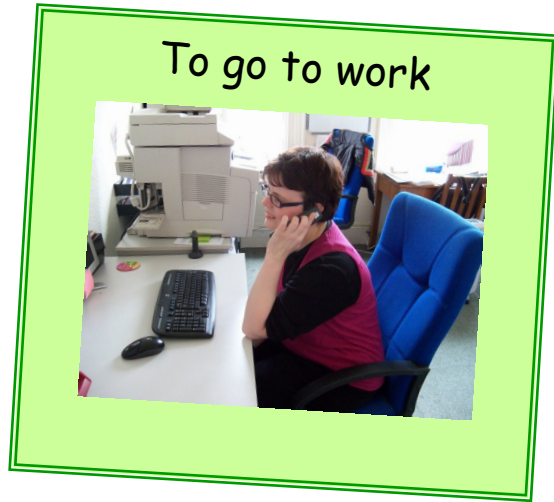
Nearly everyone who gets help from social care can get Direct Payments, but not everyone.



The Wye Valley NHS Trust have to tell you why they can't give you a Direct Payment.

# What can Direct Payments be used for?

You can spend the money to get the help and equipment that your assessment says you need. For example:



# What will I need to do?

4.



You will need to have a new bank account.

If you do not have a bank account we can support you in getting one.

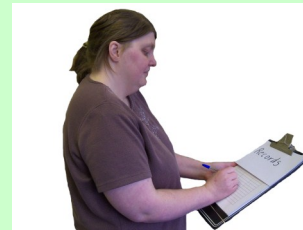
5.



We have to make sure that you are using the money properly.

Someone will visit you to check your records.

6.



You will need to keep a record of what you spend and proof of what it was for.

# What will I need to do?

1.



You will need to have an assessment.

You will need to have a support plan.

2.



The plan will show what is going to happen and when it will happen.

3.



You will need a back up plan.

If something goes wrong a social worker will help you with your back up plan.

# What can Direct Payments be used for?

To go on holiday



To go on a course or go to college



To pay people to support you at home.




These people are called Personal Assistants

# What can't Direct Payments be used for?


The law says you cannot spend the money on:

Household bills




A photograph of a brown cardboard box, likely representing household bills, with a large red 'X' drawn over it.

Help from the Wye Valley NHS trust  
e.g. some day services



The logo for Wye Valley NHS Trust, featuring the text 'Wye Valley NHS Trust' and the NHS logo, with a large red 'X' drawn over it.



Paying one of your family members who lives in the same house as you. Unless the Wye Valley NHS trust says this is okay.

A photograph of a woman in a purple uniform, likely a healthcare worker, with a large red 'X' drawn over it.


# What can't Direct Payments be used for?

Housing



A photograph of a brick building, likely representing housing, with a large red 'X' drawn over it.

Health services



A photograph of a dental chair, representing health services, with a large red 'X' drawn over it.



Long term residential care (When you live in a care home because you cannot live on your own even with support.)



A photograph of a care home building, with a large red 'X' drawn over it.