

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>WHAT ARE DIRECT PAYMENTS?</b>  | A direct payment is money that a local authority can give to you so you can arrange and buy your own support services, instead of the local authority arranging them for you. You can employ your own assistants or pay an agency of your choice to provide your support.  |
| <b>HOW CAN DIRECT PAYMENTS WORK?</b>  | Direct payments can open new doors for you to have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ More freedom in the way you live your life</li> <li>◆ More independence</li> <li>◆ More choice and control over your services</li> </ul>  |
| <b>DOES RECEIVING DIRECT PAYMENTS MEAN I CANNOT GET SERVICES FROM MY EXISTING SERVICE PROVIDER?</b> | No. You can arrange to receive a mix of services, including those paid for through direct payments and services directly arranged by the local authority.  |
| <b>DO I HAVE TO ACCEPT AN OFFER OF DIRECT PAYMENTS FROM THE LOCAL AUTHORITY?</b>                    | No. The choice to use direct payments is yours. If you do not want to use direct payments, the local authority will arrange your services for you.   |
| <b>WHO CAN USE DIRECT PAYMENTS?</b>   | At the moment, most disabled people who receive community care services can ask for a direct payment and arrange their own services. Examples of these kinds of services include personal care, help to get involved in social activities and accessing work and education.<br><br>From April 2003, if you are disabled you will be able to ask your local authority for a direct payment to help you arrange your housing support services. From June 2003 your local authority must offer you a direct payment. Housing support is support to help you set up and keep your home. Some examples of housing support are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helping you with safety and security</li> <li>• Helping you to set up a new tenancy</li> <li>• Helping you to develop your budgeting, domestic and life skills</li> </ul> |
| <b>HOW DO I GET IT?</b>   | You can find out more from your social worker or support worker if you have one. If you don't have a social worker or support worker, you can contact XXX at the contact details on the back of this leaflet.  |
|   |  |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>WHAT RESPONSIBILITIES WOULD I HAVE IF I USE DIRECT PAYMENTS?</b> | <p>When you discuss direct payments with the local authority, they will explain the things you need to do when you arrange your services. For example, you will need to make sure that you use the direct payment for the right kind of services and that you know your legal responsibilities.</p> <p>This might seem like a lot of work to do on your own, but you can get help from the people around you like a parent, family members or a carer. You can also receive help from a direct payments support organisation, local advocacy group or service brokerage organisation.</p> |
| <b>WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?</b>                                   | <p>To find out more information locally, contact (insert local contact points and organisation details)</p> <p>You can also get information at a national level from an organisation called Direct Payments Scotland This is a Scottish Executive funded organisation.</p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.dpscotland.org.uk">www.dpscotland.org.uk</a><br/>e-mail <a href="mailto:info@dpscotland.org.uk">info@dpscotland.org.uk</a><br/>Contact: 0131 558 3450</p>  |