

Direct Payments for children



How to Get and Use Direct Payments



Direct Payments are money from the Council to help with your child's care. You manage this instead of the Council doing it for you.



Direct Payments give you more choice and control over who helps your child. You decide how to spend the money on their care.



To get **Direct Payments**, your child must have a social care assessment. Parents or nominated people can receive the payments.



You must be able to choose care providers and manage the payment's financial and legal parts. A social worker can help you understand if it's right for you.



Use **Direct Payments** to pay for care in your child's plan. This can include hiring a **Personal Assistant** or using care groups.



You cannot use the money to pay family who live in your home. Manage payments with a prepayment card.



Sefton Carers Centre offers support, including setting up payments, employing **Personal Assistants**, and handling payroll and legal advice.



You must keep records of spending. Sign an agreement with the Council and ensure money is used as planned.



Direct Payments do not affect your benefits. They are not income but funds for your child's support.



You can hire anyone over 18 with a clear **DBS** check. You can't hire family living with you.



Spend the money only on care listed in your child's plan. It cannot be used for things like food or bills.



To apply, call **Sefton Council's** Children's Help and Advice Team. More information is on the Sefton Council website.



Have a question : Email
direct.payments@sefton.gov.uk
or call us 0151 288 6060

For ongoing support : Email
[selfdirectedsupport@sefton.gov.u](mailto:selfdirectedsupport@sefton.gov.uk)
[k](mailto:selfdirectedsupport@sefton.gov.uk) or call the helpline 0151 934
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