

# How Can I Use One Off Direct Payments for the People I Support?



As part of our Connected Lives approach, One Off Direct Payments can be used to connect people to the resources they need to enable them to achieve the outcomes that matter to them

## What is a Direct Payment?

A direct payment is money paid to an individual, or someone acting on their behalf, to meet **an assessed need** which enables them **to buy** the support or equipment themselves rather than the Council supplying it for them. This gives them **more freedom** to meet their needs in an innovative way.

Anyone with an assessed need under the **Care Act 2014** can have a **Direct Payment**, as long as they agree to it and can manage it themselves or have someone who can do so on their behalf.

Direct Payments support our **Connected Lives model** as this type of payment is one method that creates **choice, independence** and **enablement**, which are the heart of everything we do. Fundamentally, it is a preventative approach that gives us an opportunity to look at real and innovative solutions that enable people to **live their lives** to the full.



# Connected Lives

Our **Connected Lives Model** puts choice, independence, enablement, community and citizenship at the heart of everything we do.

Fundamentally it is a **preventative and enabling approach** that gives us an opportunity to look at creative and **innovative solutions** that enable people to live their **lives to the full**.



More detailed information regarding our **Connected Lives Model** can be found <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/connectedlives>

## Can a Person Receiving a Council-Funded Support Package also have a Direct Payment?

**Yes**, a **Direct Payment** can be used to meet all or part of someone's needs so, if someone is receiving a Council-funded package to meet some of their **assessed needs** they can still use a **Direct Payment** to meet the rest

## What is a One off Direct Payment?

This is a **Direct Payment** that is used to meet someone's needs by making a **one-off spend** which may **reduce their reliance** on other paid support, increase their independence or prevent an increase in paid support being necessary.

It is part of the **Connect and Enable** element of **Connected Lives** practice, so is aimed at providing support or interventions that enable the person to achieve their outcomes and **increase their independence**.

If a **Direct Payment** is provided on an ongoing basis the person would need to have a personal budget but this is not necessary for a one off payment.



## Case Study One

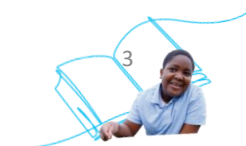
Peter has a physical disability and lives alone with a lack of informal support. He is diabetic, in financial hardship and had recently moved into supported living from a care home. He did not have a working cooker and was relying on his microwave to make his food. A Connect and Enable Direct Payment was given to Peter to buy a cooker.

With the use of a cooker Peter was able to meet his outcome of cooking fresh, nutritional meals that supported his health and managed his diabetes more effectively. The traditional route would have been to consider a homecare package that meant he had home carers visit and prepare food, most likely via the microwave, costing more and not meeting Peter's motivation to increase his independence.

## What else could a One-off Direct Payment be used for?

- a training course to enable someone **to work or volunteer**
- a piece of equipment to **increase independence** such as a communication or mobility aid
- a minor **adaptation** to the person's home
- a membership to a **social group, sports club or on line subscription** – these could be repeated annually
- short term support eg for **travel training, learning a new job or skills**
- **equipment** to enable a new activity or interest eg a musical instrument, exercise equipment, a computer

As long as the money is spent on **achieving outcomes** related to the person's **assessed needs** which are not provided as part of the person's existing support package (including **strengths** of the person, any available informal support or community services) they are likely to be eligible for a one off **Direct Payment**.



## Case Study Two

A Connect and Enable Direct Payment was given to Jemima who has multiple sclerosis.

Jemima still wanted to do the things she enjoyed, accessing her local community, and maintaining her health and wellbeing. A one off Connect and Enable Direct Payment was used and when checked back with Jemima she used this money to purchase a year's membership at a local swimming pool. Utilising the one-off direct payment in this way supported Jemima to stay active and be independent whilst doing the thing she enjoyed the most.

## Case Study Three

A Connect and Enable Direct Payment was given to Fatima, a carer caring for their grandfather to buy Wilmer, a greyhound dog.

Fatima discussed her son who had autism and mentioned the emotional impact they experienced, following the loss of their much-loved pet Greyhound. Fatima explained how a dog could help her get out and meet new people, how she could take the dog to see her grandfather and it would be good company for him but most importantly give her a much-needed break from her caring role.

Additional costs of keeping a dog were discussed and Fatima was sure she could financially manage the additional monthly expenditure, as she had done so in the past. Wilmer relieved both Fatima and her son's social isolation and improved their wellbeing, allowing a regular break from her caring role. Wilmer also helped increase her son's confidence and he started taking the dog for a walk on his own.

## How can I find out more?

If you think someone you support may **appear eligible** and **benefit** from a **one-off Direct Payment** or would prefer to receive part/all of their care through an ongoing Direct Payment, please contact their **Social Worker** directly. If they do not have a Social Worker, contact the Duty Desk for their social work team or contact:

**Email:** [contact@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:contact@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

**Telephone:** 0300 123 4042

**Textphone:** 0300 123 4041

**Website:** [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/adults](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/adults)

For further **Direct Payment** information please see the supporting [Direct Payment booklet](#)

