

Guidance for young people and their families or carers

What will happen and when?

A social worker will work with you to guide you through the process. This will include reviewing your Education Health and Care Plan, agreeing whether a Direct Payment is going to continue, and if so who will run it.

Information about transition to adulthood and the local offer in South Gloucestershire can be found on the council website.

What information and advice is available for me?

The Council's Policy on Direct Payments for 0-25 year olds can be found on the council's website at www.southglos.gov.uk/directpayments

There are also various other guides on the website including:

- An Introduction to Direct Payments factsheet
- Direct Payments Easy Read factsheet
- Guide to Personal Budgets and Direct Payments
- Guide to employing personal assistants
- Guides about Direct Payment Card accounts.
- A page about Direct Payments support providers

Some details to be aware of when moving to an adult direct payment:

- As part of the transition to an adult Direct Payment your social worker will work with you to identify who the adult direct payment will be paid to. Depending on mental capacity to understand and run a Direct Payment, it may be paid to:
 - 1) The young person
 - 2) The young person with nominated person such as a parent to assist them
 - 3) To a third party such as parent under best interests (in the case of the young person lacks mental capacity to understand what a Direct Payment is and to choose to have one).

- If the young person is going to take over running the direct payment or some aspects of it, it is worth considering what support and training may be available to them. This could be support and training on areas such as:
 - Direct Payments in general
 - Budgeting and finances
 - Being a good employer

You can talk to your social worker or Direct Payments Support provider about what training may be available.

There is a range of information about being an employer on the skills for care website :

<https://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/Recruitment-retention/Employing-your-own-care-and-support/Employing-your-own-care-and-support.aspx>

- In some cases the young disabled person at age 16 or 17 may wish, as part of the transition to adulthood, to take control of part or all of the direct payments that have to date been managed by the person with parental responsibility. This can allow them to gain experience of managing direct payments in a gradual way prior to reaching adulthood.

Direct Payment Support

If you have a direct payment support provider in place, it is likely that this will need to continue. All the providers who offer support with direct payments for disabled children also offer this service once someone is an adult. The provider may need to review who their contract is with, and amend it to the young person if the young person is taking responsibility for the direct payment.

If the young person is going to take over running the direct payment and they need some help around finances, a family member or friend can act as 'nominated person' to assist the person to run their Direct Payment account.

People acting as nominated person are asked to sign a copy of the direct payment agreement with the council. If there isn't someone to help as nominated person, a support provider could manage the direct payment account funds on behalf of the young person under a 'managed account'. Your social worker will talk to you about whether this is needed. Both of these solutions could be ongoing, or for a temporary period until the young person is confident to take over.

Some practical differences to be aware of:

- You may need to start making a financial contribution toward your Direct Payment. The council's Finance team will contact you to carry out a financial assessment, and will let you know if you need to make contributions. You can view the council's fairer charging policy on the council website.

If you are told you that you need to contribute, you will need to start paying your contribution into your Direct Payment Card account on a regular basis.

- You may be used to getting monthly payments under a Parent of Disabled Child Direct Payment. This will change as Adult Direct Payments are paid in fortnightly instalments.
- As a general rule you can keep a contingency fund of up to 8 weeks' worth of funding in your parent of disabled child direct payment account. Under an adult direct payment you can hold a contingency fund of up to 4 weeks. It is possible for your social worker to agree a higher than 4 week limit with you, should you have a need for this.

The Direct Payment Card account

- When your adult direct payment starts, the council will need to set up a new Direct Payment Card account to replace the one you currently use. This applies even if the parent is continuing to receive the direct payment on behalf of their child, but under an adult direct payment.

You may need to add payee details to the new account and amend any standing orders or Direct Debits, so that they start coming out of the new account.

- If you have a contingency fund built up in your existing direct payment card account, your social worker will talk to you about what funds will be transferred over to the adult account. (You may have built funds up to cover costs of being an employer and Personal Assistant holiday etc.)
- Some parents receive DP funding on behalf of 2 or more young people, for example one under 18 and one over 18. If the parents employ the same staff for both children it could be difficult to split between 2 accounts.

In this scenario can the council pay the children's and adult direct payments into one account?

Yes both direct payments could be made into one account. Your social worker can help you get this in place.