

DIRECT PAYMENTS

What are Direct Payments?

Direct Payments are monetary amounts given to you, the service user or your representative, by the Council so that you can arrange and manage your own care and support needs, in the case of a carer their support needs, in order to achieve your personal well-being outcomes.

How do I request a Direct Payment?

In order to determine if you are eligible to receive social care services, including direct payments, a social care worker will carry out a needs assessment to identify the outcomes you or a carer, wish to achieve in your/their day to day life and what care and support, or in the case of a carer what support, could contribute in order to achieve those outcomes. If following the needs assessments, the social care worker identifies that you are eligible to receive care and support, or in the case of a carer support, in order to meet your personal well-being outcomes, the suitability of a direct payment will be discussed with you at this point together with options of what other services are also available to you.

How is the money paid to me?

A weekly amount of money is calculated and sufficient to pay for the care and support previously identified and agreed in your care and support plan. You may be asked to open a bank account (separate to your personal account) to receive funds. If you are unable to do this for whatever reason you can receive support to receive payments in other ways, but you will still control and direct your care and support.

Does receiving a Direct Payment affect my benefits?

Receiving a Direct Payment does not affect the state benefits you receive and is not classed as taxable income.

Useful Contacts

Each Local Authority will have experienced Direct Payments teams who are there to support you with any queries or information that you need.

They will endeavour to provide you with as much help and reassurance as you need, until you feel confident to manage arrangements yourself.

But remember, if you need periodic support, or advice the teams are only a phone call/email away

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Direct Payments Team Office directpayments@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

Caerphilly County Borough Council Direct Payments Team Office directpayadvisors@caerphilly.gov.uk

Monmouthshire County Borough Council Direct Payments Team direct.payments@gavowales.org.uk

Newport City Council Direct Payments Support Team direct.payments@newport.gov.uk

Torfaen County Borough Council Independent Living (Direct Payments) Team independentlivingteam@torfaen.gov.uk

Bridging The Gap Gwent (BTGG) is a short breaks scheme that provides unpaid carers a short period of rest from their caring role.

A short break lets you take time out to look after yourself and helps stop you becoming exhausted and run down.

If you care for someone who resides in Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport or Torfaen, you could be eligible to access the scheme.

The scheme is accessible to unpaid adult carers and young carers (under 18).

Bridging the Gap Gwent is delivered by NEWCIS on behalf of the five Gwent authorities.

For further information or to apply to access the scheme, please contact your local authority shown below:

Blaenau Gwent: Adult Carers 01495 315700 / Young Carers 01495 355584

Caerphilly: Adult Carers 0808 100 2500 / Young Carers 0808 100 1727

Monmouth/Usk/Raglan: 01600 773041

Abergavenny: 01873 735885

Chepstow/Caldicot: 01291 635666

Monmouthshire Young Carers: 07970 166975

Newport: Adult Carers 01633 656656 / Young Carers 07729 445503

Torfaen: 01495 762200

Alternatively, for more information go to:

NEWCIS: 01352 752525 / <https://www.newcis.org.uk/btg-gwent/>