

DIRECT PAYMENTS

TAKEN FROM THE LOCAL OFFER WEBSITE;

Southend Borough Council (SBC) can offer funding instead of arranging direct services for those who are eligible. This is what is known as a direct payment.

Direct payments are contributions made to the parents or carers of a disabled child. These are made in advance, usually every four weeks. They enable parents/carers to purchase and arrange their support to meet their child's needs.

Direct payments aim to give people more choice, greater flexibility and more control over the support they receive.

You can use Direct Payments for:

- ▶ Employing a personal assistant for your child as an overnight or day carer.
- ▶ Community activities such as after school clubs.
- ▶ Short residential breaks
- ▶ Support for your child's personal care.

Funding can be paid directly into the bank account of some 16-17-year-olds.

Payments are made to an adult with parental responsibility where a child or young person is under 16.

You can get direct payments for your child if:

- ▶ You have had a single social work assessment that finds your child is eligible for a care package from the Children with Disabilities (CWD) Service.
- ▶ Your child's disability has social care needs where a direct payment would be suitable to support you to meet those needs.
- ▶ You consent to receiving a direct payment on behalf of your child and that you will be able to manage the payments either by self-management or through a service provider commissioned by SBC.

How to apply for direct payments: If you feel you need additional support for your child or would like to find out if Direct Payments are suitable for you, please contact MASH : 01702 215007. Mon to Thurs: 9am to 5.30pm. Friday: 9am to 4.30pm

Please be ready to provide details of your child's disability and why you are asking for an assessment by the CWD Team.