



# Paying towards my Direct Payment

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When receiving care and support at home most people have to pay towards their Personal Budget.

## How much will I have to pay towards my Direct Payment?

To calculate how much you must pay towards your Direct Payment you will need to complete a financial assessment which can be done online. To find out more about paying for care please go to our website

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/adult-social-care-and-health/paying-for-care/financial-assessment-for-care-at-home>

If you are unable to complete the assessment online a paper copy can be sent to you to complete and return.

## How will I know how much my contribution is?

Once you have completed the assessment, either online or by post, the Council will use the information to calculate the amount and then write to you to let you know how much you must contribute each week. If your financial circumstances change you must let the Council know immediately as your contribution may also need to change.

## How do I pay my contribution?

Once you have been notified of how much you should pay you will need to transfer the money onto your Direct Payment Card, or into your dedicated bank account. You will need to pay your contribution into the Direct Payment account every week. Alternatively, you can pay in the total of four weekly contributions every four weeks. This ensures there are enough funds in the account to pay for your care and support. You will need to ensure you alter the amount you pay if the Council inform you your contribution has changed.

The simplest way to pay your contribution is to set up a standing order at your bank from your personal account to the Direct Payment account.

If someone is managing your Direct Payment on your behalf, you need to tell them how much your weekly contribution is so that they can arrange for this to be paid from your bank account.

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This information sheet is for guidance only.

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/adult-social-care-and-health>

# Adult Social Care



For example:

If the total cost of your Direct Payment is £140 per week and your contribution is £90 per week, the council will only pay £50 towards your Direct Payment.

Your Direct Payment will look like this;

What you will need to pay	£90
What the council will pay	<u>£50</u>
Total combined amount	£140 per week

## What happens if my provider charges more than the agreed Direct Payment?

You can choose who provides your care. However, if your chosen Personal Assistant or care agency charges a rate which is more than the Council's agreed rates for Direct Payments you will need to top up the account with your own money to pay for this. You will need to pay this amount as well as your assessed contribution, so you would be paying two different payments. If there are no care providers available that charge a rate agreeable to the Council, then this will have to be discussed with your Adult Social Care worker before agreeing to take on the service.

## What if I do not pay my assessed contribution onto the Direct Payment Card?

If you do not pay your contribution onto the Direct Payment Card, there will not be enough money to pay for your care and support services. If there is not enough money in your Direct Payment account to cover a payment, the payment will be declined.

The Council will contact you or the person who is managing the Direct Payment on your behalf to tell you this has happened and inform you how much is owed. You will need to pay your contribution onto the Direct Payment Card as soon as possible.

## What if I cannot afford to pay the outstanding amount in one go?

If you cannot afford to pay the outstanding amount in one go, the Council may agree that you can pay over a short period of time. If you are unable to keep up these payments or miss any further contributions the Council will discuss with you if continuing with a Direct Payment is the best option. They will also consider with you the best solution to recover the outstanding amount still owed.