

What direct payments can be spent on

Note: If printed, this document is for immediate reference only. Do not file it, as it will go out-of-date over time and be replaced by newer versions on-line. Always refer to the latest CMS version.

Adults can use their direct payments to access a wide range of support, **as long as this is legal and meets agreed eligible needs and helps the person to achieve their desired outcomes**. Direct payments must be spent on meeting the assessed eligible needs which the direct payment is provided to meet; that is, the person should not spend such a large proportion of the money on one need that one or more of the other assessed eligible needs for which the direct payment is provided is/are neglected.

Examples of how the Direct Payment might be spent	This could be done by:
Help with personal care, such as bathing and getting dressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employing a care worker • Choosing an agency of the person's choice
Help with day-to-day tasks at home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employing a care worker • Choosing an agency of the person's choice • Paying a laundry service to collect laundry, clean it and deliver it back
Arrange for delivery of food if the person is unable to get it themselves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meals on wheels (contribution may be required from the person) • Delivery costs of meals • Arrange for someone to support the person to cook a meal on occasions or pay for support to go out for a meal
Help the person access their local amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employ a care worker to help the person attend activities
Help the person to find and pay for day activities, such as a course or a club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pool budgets with other direct payment recipients to pay to maximise options for activities and combined support
Get help to find work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay for support to attend interviews • Pay for help to access employment support services

Pay for one-off pieces of equipment that are not available through other support services (for example, through occupational therapy)

- Pay for a computer to help develop skills or stay in contact with friends and relatives

What the Direct Payment cannot be spent on

Anything illegal

Gambling

Buying food, drink, alcohol or cigarettes

Paying for anything that other departments or statutory organisations provide, for example the NHS

Paying any rent or household bills, for example, gas and electricity bills

Permanent residential placements

Paying for services from the local authority

Paying members of the same household

Croydon Council does not allow the person to pay household members for support, except in exceptional circumstances, such as if this is the best way to meet the person's cultural, religious or communication needs.

However, the Care and Support (Direct Payments) Regulations 2014 does allow direct payment recipients to pay a close relative living in the same household to provide management and/or administrative support to the direct payment holder in cases where the local authority determines this to be necessary. This reflects the fact that in some complex situations the direct payment amount may be substantial. Family members can be paid a proportion of the direct payment, similar to what direct payment holders may pay to third party support organisations, as long as the local authority allows this. In such a case, the family member would need to be put on the payroll as an employee.

Practitioner: Always give careful consideration to what informal support is currently provided and what will continue to be provided and what extra help might be needed, before considering allowing a direct payment to be used to pay a household member.

Please Note: There should not be a default approach of converting existing unpaid informal support into paid support.

Practitioner:

- Check with your team manager in all cases where there is a request to pay a family member from direct payments.
- Include these arrangements in the care and support plan.



- Ensure all parties are aware of what steps to take in case of a dispute about the management of the payment by a household family member.