

Direct Payment Policy Consultation - Frequently Asked Question

Why do Cheshire East Council want to introduce an ‘all age’ Direct Payment Policy?

The Council want to make sure that people are provided with a source of information, guidance, about how to manage their Direct Payment or what they need to know before considering a Direct Payment.

The policy has been created to provide guidance and sets out the way the Council provides Direct Payments in Cheshire East. This includes adults, adult carers, and children and/or those with parental responsibility for a child on making and receiving a Direct Payment where there is an assessed need.

Transition from children to adult services?

When a young person reaches the age of 18 years, their community care needs will normally be met by Adult Social Care Services, although the criteria for eligibility for care and support for adults is different and it may be that more or less support is provided. The implementation of the ‘all age’ Direct Payment Policy provides guidance and information for those young people who are transitioning from children services to adult services.

What is a pooled budget for Direct Payments?

Some people who receive a Direct Payment may want to join with others to ‘pool’ their Direct Payment on a regular basis. This is another way in which a Direct Payment can be used to promote choice and control and to meet outcomes and join together with others to do things that they want to do as a group. This could be to employ a personal assistant or contract with an agency to achieve better outcomes, meet common needs, goals and aspirations for all participating individuals.

Why introduce Prepaid cards?

The introduction of a prepaid card for Direct Payment recipients in Cheshire East will provide increased choice and control. A prepaid card works like a current account from your bank. You would be able to use the prepaid card to pay for services that meet your assessed eligible social care needs. Cheshire East Council would put your Direct Payment money onto the card rather than into a separate bank account. A prepaid card is a digital solution that offers secure and immediate access to funds and balances. A prepaid card would provide instant audit and oversight and reduces the administrative burden for Direct Payment recipients.