



NEW: ALL TOGETHER 2008

Direct Payments and Self-Directed Support

community living alternatives for people with additional support needs

Welcome

A happy New Year and a warm welcome to the latest issue of 'Options – for Independent Living'

A new year is the time for new beginnings and this is certainly true for people who are eligible for social care. In this issue you can read about Richmond's Self-Directed Support (SDS), the new form of 'social care' provision for elderly and disabled people that the health secretary, Alan Johnson, described as "potentially one of the most radical public service reforms for a generation." On page 04 there is a short introduction to SDS and on page 04 and 05, you can read the Council's response to questions put by our members, concerning the effect of SDS on Direct Payments (DP). Whilst the replies confirm that people who currently get cash payments will still have access to this means of independent living, it also notes that SDS is driven by the need to get value for money at a time when Council budgets are tightening!

An equally notable new year development, is the joining together of DP support under service user's (RUILS) management. This '**All Together**' approach, will see existing pieces of the 'jigsaw' of DP support, brought together at a 'one-stop-shop' location whilst also offering new ways to help service users make the most of Direct Payments and other funds, as these are brought together under the SDS system to create personal Individual (social care) Budgets.

Readers are invited to 'cut-out-and-save' the list of current useful contacts and services see page 06 and 07. and to keep abreast of changes to Richmond's 'social care' provision by reading future issues of 'Options'.

Finally, we'd like to offer a belated New Year's wish to you, the reader, that 2008 provides tangible benefits from RUILS 'All-Together' services and that 'Self-Directed Support' will begin to provide the means by which all 'social care' service users can achieve greater independence and well-being.

A happy 2008

The RUILS Editorial Team

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Direct Payments (*) – another way of getting care to live at home

- Direct Payments are a way of helping you to live independently in your own home.
- A Direct Payment is money your Social Services Department can give you.
- You use the monthly cash payments to buy the support you want and need.
- Social Services give you the money instead of arranging a care service for you.
- You spend the money on getting support that meets your needs.
- You can have a Direct Payment for all your support, or for part of it. If you only want a Direct Payment for part of your support, social services will arrange services for the rest of it.
- A Direct Payment is not a benefit. It does not affect your benefits or state pension and is not liable to income tax.
- It is your choice as to whether you want Direct Payments or not.
- Direct Payments is another way of giving you the support you need and for some people, it offers greater choice, flexibility and control over how this care is provided.

Interested? Look inside for more news and information.

(*) Direct Payments from Social Services are NOT the same thing as the 'Direct Payment' where your state pension or benefits are paid directly into your bank account.

EASY-READ GUIDE

Throughout this issue of the 'Options' newsletter, you will find most information is presented in the format you are now reading. There are however, several other types of information which you may find useful. They are displayed in boxes and explained as follows:



Tips & Advice

A box with this image of a lightbulb contains useful tips and ideas provided by experienced service users and practitioners.



Useful Contacts

A box with the image of a telephone contains the contact details of useful people and organizations.



Jargon Buster

A box with the alphabet letters gives a simple description of abbreviations and terms used as short-hand by professionals and others.



Information

These boxes contains extra information or explanation such as government or Council advice, what rights you have and what you should expect from other bodies, such as social services.

News in brief

ADMINISTRATION PAYMENTS

All individuals who employ staff with their Direct Payment are entitled to an annual £100 administration payment from the council. This money can be used to renew your Employer's Liability Insurance, to pay for the services of a Financial Monitoring Advisor (see page 10) and to cover any advertising or administration costs. Although this payment should have been made earlier in the year, there has been a problem with the payment system. If you are a Direct Payment Employer and you have not received your payment for this year, please call Emma Flowers on 0208 891 7237 and she will make sure that you receive this payment.

DIRECT PAYMENTS SURPLUS POLICY

Some of you may have received a letter from the council's Finance Team requesting you to pay some of your Direct Payment money back to them. You would have been asked to do this because your financial monitoring form would have shown that you were holding more money in your account than Richmond's Surplus Policy states that you are entitled to hold. We have been working with Richmond Council on the surplus policy because although they need unspent public funds to be returned, you need flexibility in the way in which you spend your money. Sometimes you need to keep money aside to pay for extras (e.g. holiday cover, tax) or you may be saving money to pay for something that you would like to purchase. In order to give you more flexibility, the council have agreed to check accounts for surpluses twice a year not every quarter as they currently do. If you are holding or saving money all you need to do is to state what the money is being saved for on the last section of the Financial Monitoring Forms (Section D).

If you are having difficulties completing your Financial Monitoring Form please take advantage of our new Financial Monitoring Advisor Jane Ayres (page 10) who can assist you with this.



Jargon Buster

'Social care' are the services available to help eligible elderly and disabled people live more independently and safely at home. They cover a wide range of public and private sector services – from help with getting out of bed and washing to residential homes and drop-in centres. It also includes 'care' or personal support in your own home, meals and day services as well as support for carers.

Independent Living is disabled people having the same choice, control and freedom as any other citizen – at home, at work, and as members of the community. This does not necessarily mean disabled people 'doing everything for themselves', but it does mean that any practical assistance people need should be based on their own choices and aspirations.

How Will Self-Directed Support Affect Your Direct Payments?

Richmond Council has begun introducing a new form of 'social care' called Self-Directed Support or SDS.

It will change the way elderly and disabled people get their personal support to remain independent and living at home. In this article we ask the Council to explain how Self-Directed Support (SDS) will affect current recipients of Direct Payments (DP).

Question 1: I understand that people currently on Direct Payments (DP) will move over to Self-Directed Support (SDS) funding in the future. How will this transition affect the free payroll service I currently get from the Rowan Organisation to work out and pay my Personal (care) Assistant's (Pas) wages?

Answer: At the time of writing (Jan.2008), it will make no immediate difference as the Rowan Organisation have been contracted to continue providing current DP users with a free payroll service. Some way in the future, all SDS clients who opt to use DP will be able to use money from their Individual Budget to pay for a payroll service of their own choosing.

Question 2: Will the home visits and Direct Payments advice I currently get from an Independent Living (Home) Advisor be affected by the introduction of SDS?

Answer: The support of Independent Living Advisors is still available to you but is now provided by RUILS, your local DP peer support group (see page 10). As SDS is introduced, the work of an ILA will be provided by a wider range of providers called brokers, but we will ensure that User Led Organisations continue to have the capacity to offer support to people to direct their own support.

Question 3: I need help to prepare and submit my Direct Payments (DP) quarterly financial monitoring returns to the Council. Who will do this from now on?

Answer: Help to organise and submit your DP monitoring returns is now provided by Financial Advisors (see page 10) and not your Independent Living Advisor.

Question 4: Will SDS stop me from using the 'paFinder' service to find suitable Personal (Care) Assistants?

Answer: This free service (see page 08) is still available to you as long as you have registered your interest.

Question 5: I understand that with the introduction of SDS, Direct Payments will remain a way of buying my personal support but is it true that those currently in receipt of DP will get less money?

Answer: Recipients of DP transferring to an Individual Budget, will have their current level of payment preserved until their second review by a Care Manager. At the first review, to give people an idea of their future budget, the Council will ask people to complete a Self Assessment of need questionnaire and apply a system (called a RAS or Resource Allocation System) that works out how much 'social care' money is allocated to them. Service users will then have 18 to 24 months (depending on the

date of the review) before the RAS is applied and their budget (potentially) changed.

On transferring to an Individual Budget, all DP users will be offered help to develop their personal support plan and asked to sign a new agreement.

Question 6: Is SDS just another way of the Council saving money?

Answer: Self Directed Support is a fairer and more transparent way of allocating the limited resources we have available, it is not designed to save the council money, but it can make more creative and effective use of what we have.

Question 7: Will my benefits (e.g. Disability Living Allowance or Attendance Allowance) and Independent Living Fund (ILF) be affected by the move to SDS?

Answer: No.

Question 8: How will carers be affected by the introduction SDS?

Answer: The SDS system will, in the future, apply to carers who are eligible for 'social care' support and, as a result, they will be given a personal Individual Budget to buy the help they need.

Question 9: Will current Council-provided adult care services such as Day Centres and meals-on-wheels, still be available to people once SDS is introduced?

Answer: All of the services we currently provide will be available to purchase under Self Directed Support, but these may change in the future, based on demand and on what people decide to spend their budgets.

Question 10: Will Individual Budget holders be subjected to a Domiciliary Care (means-tested) charge that could mean they have to make a contribution to their 'care' out of their own pocket?

Answer: You will not have to pay anything if you receive the guarantee credit element of Pension Credit or Income Support. If you do not receive either of these, we will ask you to complete a financial form on which you need to give details of your income and expenses. We will use this information to work out whether you will have to pay a contribution, and if so, how much.

Question 11: I understand that, in addition to people who get their 'social care' funded by the Council, SDS will also be available to 'self-funders'. What is meant by the term and how will future 'self-funders' benefit?

Answer: Self-funders are people who choose to fund their own 'care' or they have been assessed at full cost contribution after a financial assessment and therefore, don't qualify for social service's funding.

Under SDS, self-funders will be able to access the same help as a Social Services funded individual in order to build a Support Plan, navigate the 'social care' marketplace and secure services and access advice and information. This help may be provided by the Council but also voluntary organisations or a Brokerage Service.

Question 12: Who do I contact if I want to discuss my future Direct Payments support?

Answer: You can contact RUILS using any of the methods listed on page 06.

Ed.

Issue 3 of 'Options' provided readers with a 'Beginners Guide' to Self-Directed Support. Copies of this article are still available on request.



Information

AN INTRODUCTION TO SELF-DIRECTED SUPPORT (SDS)

Under Self Directed Support everybody who qualifies for support from Social Services will be allocated a cash amount, 'an individual budget'. Individual Budgets (IB) puts the person in control of how that money gets spent. This is done by telling them up front how much they are entitled to and putting the individual at the centre of the planning process. They can then choose how to spend this money on meeting their support needs.

Under SDS, it is anticipated that:

- There will be a transfer of power and control from the council to eligible 'social care' service users, as the latter are given the opportunity to self-define their personal support needs and to acquire the help they consider will best achieve their well-being and independence.
- Elderly and disabled people will be given spending power in the form of a personal Individual Budgets (IB) made up of various sources of public money including Direct (cash) Payments.
- IB beneficiaries have the freedom to 'shop around' and buy either high-street 'off-the-peg' services that deliver more personalized, dignified and flexible support or to set up their own imaginative and less conventional private informal support that makes the most of local facilities and contacts.

First-stop shops will offer individuals, including those not eligible for help with 'social care' funding, support and guidance to choose and organize their DIY personal support.

Ed.

To get a copy of the Council's factsheet, 'How Richmond's SDS works', contact the RUILS helpline T: 020 8831 6083, Richmond Adult Social Services T: 020 8891 7971, or download by clicking on: www.richmond.gov.uk and search the words. "self directed support".











All-together 2008

Whatever your Direct Payments needs, help and advice is on hand.




Here is your cut-out and keep summary guide to the ways that Richmond residents with 'social care' needs, can get support to use Direct Payments as a means to living independently.

Your Local 'All-together' DP Support Service (see Ed. Note)

On the 1st November 2007, RUILS began providing 'All-together', day-to-day personal support to all the borough's Direct Payments (DP) users. We are a user run and led self-help group that enables you to get to where you want to be with regard to using Direct Payments and future Individual Budgets (IB). The following table summarises the 'All-together' ways we can help.

Richmond Users Independent Living Scheme (RUILS) DAAC, 4 Waldegrave Road, Teddington, Middx. TW11 8HT				
	SUPPORT SERVICES	WHAT SUPPORT YOU GET	CONTACT DETAILS	SEE PAGE
	Independent Living Home Advisors (ILAs)	Jackie Jones or Jackie Pilcher provide home visits to help you set-up & manage your Direct Payments.	Telephone 020 8831 6083 (24hr. Answerphone) to book a visit	page 07
	'paFinder'	Karen Block will help you find people who want paid work as your Personal (care) Assistant.	Telephone 020 8831 6083 (24hr. Answerphone) E. karenblock@ruils.co.uk	page 08
	Helpline or email support	Speak to our operators who will either answer your queries or put you in touch with someone who can.	Telephone 020 8831 6083 Mon- Fri 10am – 4pm (24hr. Answerphone) E. info@ruils.co.uk	page 09
	'Options' News and 'Options' Web	A newsletter and website, full of comment, information and advice to help you make the most of DP & IB.	Click on www.ruils.co.uk or 'phone Helpline to get newsletter mailing	page 09
	Factsheets	'How To' guidance on setting up and managing your DP funded personal (care) needs.	Contact RUILS or see our website	page 09
	'Really Useful Workshops'	Fully accessible & 'not too long' training opportunities for you or your Personal Assistants.	See Options Newsletter or RUILS Website for dates	page 09
	Buddy Supporters	Experienced users of DP who you can speak to if you want 'first-hand' advice from someone who knows.	Telephone the Helpline to arrange your 'Buddy' support	page 10
	DP Roadshows	Touring publicity shows provide an opportunity to meet us face to face & learn more about DP & SDS.	See Options Newsletter or RUILS Website for dates and venues	page 10
	Financial Monitoring Assistants	Jayne Ayres will help you prepare your quarterly financial returns which record and account for your DP spending.	Advisors are self employed but a visit can be made by calling the Helpline or call direct: Jane Ayres Telephone 020 8943 5405 janeayres1@btinternet.com	page 10
	Support Planning Workshops	Monthly workshops that will give you a flavour of what Support Planning is all about. This will equip you to write your own plan or get the most out of planning with someone else.	Monthly sessions Call the helpline to book a place	

Support provided by others

SUPPORT SERVICES	WHAT SUPPORT YOU GET	CONTACT DETAILS	SEE PAGE
 Payroll Service (for 'care' staff)	The Rowan Organisation provides a free payroll service to users who want an agency to work out and pay the wages of their 'care' staff	Telephone Chris Marshall on 01827 718 932 Mon-Fri. 9am-5pm	
 Social Service Care Managers	Will review your 'care' needs and the amount of Direct Payments / IB should your personal support needs change	Telephone 020 8891 79 71 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm Out-of-hours number Telephone 020 8744 2442	
 Council Finance Department	This department works out your DP or IB money, pays it into your account and monitors how you spend it	Emma Flowers Telephone 020 8891 7237 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm	

Ed.

As Richmond Council changes its 'social care' provision to a system of Self-Directed Support (SDS), so the services offered by RUILS will include help planning your personally tailored support, working out how much it will cost and who can provide it.

Jackie Pilcher, Cathy Maker and Jackie Jones.



Independent Living Home Advisors (ILAs)

Help to set up, manage and continue using your Direct Payments (1)

ILAdvisors can visit you at home and help you set up and use your Direct Payments. They can help ensure that you make the most of the money and get the personal care or support you want. They can do this in a number of ways, including:

1. Helping you decide if Direct Payments (DP) are right for you by giving you the facts about who can get them, what can be purchased with the money and what you must do once the payments begin. Armed with this information, you should find it is easier to decide if DP is the best way to get the personal support or 'care' you need.



2. Should you choose Direct Payments, an ILA can help you to set-up it up by giving you guidance, technical information or practical help. They can, for example, help you to look at how, who or what could most effectively provide your personal support (and there are many ways of doing this!) or open a Bank account to receive the payments.

3. If you decide that your personal support needs are best met by employing your own (care) staff or Personal Assistants (PAs), then an ILA can,

amongst other things, show you how to find staff, manage and arrange their work or pay their wages.

4. If you need money in addition to Direct Payments, then an ILA can help with this too, by acting as your guide to other sources of funds, benefits advice or local facilities to which you may be entitled and which save you money.

5. Even if you are used to getting DP funded support, you can still get ILA help to

All-together 2008: Direct Payments Support

prepare for a Social Services review if your circumstances or personal requirements change, or put you in touch with a Financial Monitoring Assistant (see page 10) who will help you prepare and submit your DP quarterly financial return to the Council.

6. When the person in need of 'care' has, say, dementia and is unable to understand between the options available to them or has no safe or meaningful control over their own personal support, then an ILAdvisor can explain to their relatives or supporters the workings of such special arrangements as 'Well Being Payments', Independent Living Trusts or Circles of Support.

Ed.

- (1)** To arrange a visit or speak to an Independent Living Advisor contact the RUILS Helpline Telephone **020 8831 6083**
- (2)** Whilst ILAdvisors will offer you the help listed above and will always make sure you have choice and control over any decision affecting your own life, you are reminded that, should you choose to employ your own 'care' staff, you are their legal employer and not an ILAdvisor, RUILS, Richmond Council or any other agency or person.
- (3)** With the introduction of SDS, ILAdvisors may change their title but one-to-one help will still be available to DP recipients as their payments are made as part of future Individual Budgets (see page 04 for details).



paFinder Support

Helping Direct Payment users to find their own (care) support workers.

You can use your Direct Payments to employ a Personal (care) Assistant (PA) or support worker. A PA will help with your practical daily-living tasks so that you can remain living independently in your own home.

'paFinder' offers six easy steps to finding a suitable PA.

Step 1: You contact RUILS and complete a registration form that tells us what type of person and support you are looking for.

Step 2: We look at our list of 'job seekers' and try to match your needs with a Personal (care) Assistant who is available and has the qualities you seek.

Step 3: We contact you with the personal details, skills and experience of 'job seekers' who offer you a possible or near match.

Step 4: You decide if you would like to meet any of the PAs we have introduced and then you can invite them to a job interview. We can help you with interviews.

Step 5: After the interview, if you decide to employ one of the 'job seekers' then our matching service is complete until the next time you ask us to find someone to work for you as a PA.

Step 6: As the legal employer of your new PA, you can ask one of our ILAs (Independent Living Advisers) (see page 07) to help with checking their references, drawing up a contract of employment and paying staff wages.



Ed.

(1) 'paFinder' DOES NOT:

- take up job references,
- conduct Criminal Record Checks. We can only help PAs to process a CRB check through the London Borough of Richmond, who provide this service free of charge to DP employers
- confirm if a job seeker is legally able to work in the UK. Karen can advise you how to do this.



Useful Contacts

The 'paFinder' service is available:

- By telephoning Karen on **020 8831 6083** (24 hrs Answerphone)
- By completing a form on-line: **www.ruils.co.uk/form1.html**
- By E-mailing: **karenblock@ruils.co.uk**
- By post or visiting: RUILS, DAAC, 4 Waldegrave Rd, Teddington TW11 8HT.

By requesting the service from your home-visiting Independent Living Advisor (ILA)

3 Helpline & Email Support

The RUILS helpline (020 8831 6083) and Email: info@ruils.co.uk offers callers information or advice about all aspect of Direct Payments and the latest news about Self-Directed Support. Our operators will answer your DP queries or put you in touch with someone who can. All calls are logged for monitoring and training purposes and you can use the helpline or Email to:

- Speak to or book a home visit by an Independent Living Advisor,
- Reserve a place on one of our workshops,
- Arrange to speak with an experienced DP 'Buddy',
- Or just answer a question about Direct Payments or Self-Directed Support

Ed.

The helpline is set-up to offer a 'one-stop' service to: DP users and their supporters, to 'social care' practitioners and to members of the public including those people who are eligible to a Social Service but pay for their support themselves (self-funders).



4 'Options' Newsletter & Web News

RUILS popular newsletter is called 'Options – for independent living'. It is published every three months, is FREE! and is packed full of articles and local or national news about community living alternatives for people with additional support needs. Regular features include 'How To' guides to using Direct Payments and employing Personal Assistants, and 'Real Life' examples of local elderly or disabled people using their Direct Payments to buy and manage their own personal support.



Our web-site www.ruils.co.uk provides an extensive library and list of useful contacts and is accessible(see Ed. Note) to sensory impaired visitors including those who prefer reading large text or easy-to-read summarise with pictures.

Web browsers can also click-on and complete our 'paFinder' Registration Forms, read back-

copies of our newsletter, get dates and news about forthcoming events or enter the RUILS Chat-Room' (see Ed. Note) to get in touch with other service users and practitioners.

Ed.

At the time of writing (Jan.2008) our web-site and chat room are undergoing reconstruction to make them more user-friendly and to include latest developments resulting from the introduction of SDS.

5 Factsheets & Guides

Future recipients of Direct Payments or Individual Budgets (provided as part of Richmond's Self-Directed Support scheme) will be issued with a Starter Pack of helpful information and additional factsheets are also available to anyone (this is currently being developed).

6 Really Useful Workshops

Whilst going back to school to learn 'new tricks' is not everybody's idea of fun, comments from past workshop participants suggest that our workshops have done what it says on the tin, and been "really useful". The small, friendly gatherings are attended by people with similar experiences to yourself, are not too long or exhausting, are held in fully accessible premises and don't start too early or finish too late.

All-together 2008: Direct Payments Support

RUILS' workshops benefit service users but we also arrange training events for your personal assistant to develop their own knowledge and skills in such matters as moving and handling, health and safety or basic first aid.

Ed.

As Richmond's 'social care' changes to one of Self-Directed Support, so future 'Really Useful Workshops' (2008) will look at helping people to write their own Support (for living) Plan and work out how to make the most of their Individual Budget (page 04) whilst avoiding any overspend. They will also continue to help with the training of PAs or support workers.

'Buddy' Mentors & Peer Group meetings

If you want to know how well something works, then speak to the person who uses it. In terms of living with a disability and using Direct Payments, our RUILS 'Buddies' are the ones to 'tell it like it is'. They are all in receipt of Direct Payment and most employ their own Personal assistant or have found other imaginative ways of getting personal support. So, if you want to talk in person to a 'Buddy' then contact our helpline or ask your ILAdvisor to arrange a meeting.

SDS Roadshows

This year's touring promotional events provide an opportunity for the public to meet our 'Buddies' or ILAdvisors, find out how Direct Payments (DP) works and what will happen as DP become part of an Individual Budget provided under the Council's new Self-Directed Support Scheme. To book a visit for your group or to find out where they will be visiting, contact our helpline.

Financial Monitoring Assistant

If you use Direct (cash) Payments, then you have to show the Council that you have spent the money on getting your personal support. For example, you may use the money to employ a personal (care) assistant (PA) and so will have to show the Council evidence of their payslips or insurance payments. For some users of DP this can be tedious or time-consuming task that they are happy to have done for them.

This is when the all-new Financial Monitoring Assistant Service can help. You contact the RUILS Helpline (020 8831 6083) or ask your ILA to arrange a visit. The Finance Assistant will then call round to complete and submit, on your behalf, the three-monthly record of your payments and expenditure. They can organize and check any DP related paperwork including: invoices, receipts, pay slip advice, tax forms

and bank or building society statements, so it can save you time and effort.

The Financial Advisors are self-employed and you pay for their service out of the Direct Payments Administration money that is given to you for this purpose (see page 03). This money can be topped-up once it has been spent so you should never have to pay out of your own pocket or use any of your Direct Payments that is set aside for paying your PA's wages.

Ed.

Independent Living Home Advisors will no longer help DP users to submit their financial monitoring forms but will refer you to a Financial Assistant instead.

Support Planning Workshops

New to Social Services? Going through Self Directed Support? Then this is the workshop for you. This workshop will take you through the Support Planning process and will give you a flavour of what Support Planning is all about. After completing the workshop you will either be able to write your own Support Plan or it will help you to get more out of the Support Planning process when you start to write your plan with the help of a broker or care manager.

Poland, Personal Assistants and Private Ambitions

Direct Payments can be used to achieve more things than just paying for traditional help at home.

Jean has a physical disability and uses a wheelchair. With careful budgeting of her Direct Payments, she paid for her personal support whilst also fulfilling her ambition to travel.

One of my personal (care) assistants (PA) is Polish and she asked me if I would like to go to Poland for a few days. This coincided with my watching a programme on the city of Krakow, so I jumped at the chance.

My ongoing Direct Payments (DP) provides full-time support throughout the day. I worked out that I could offer my PA 10 hrs a day for 5 days at £9 an hour. In addition, I would cover her transport and accommodation costs. As most people are allowed 4 weeks respite costs I figured that this money could be taken out of my DP.

Our flight out went without a hitch, although I must have eaten food that did not agree with me so was in a bit of a state when we reached the hotel!

Kracow has a lovely centre with horse-drawn carriages plus golf carts to take you around the city. They also sell some beautiful

amber jewellery. I could sit there all day just people watching and drinking coffee.

One day I went for a face massage while my PA had a body massage. Later we had a lovely meal at an Italian restaurant.

Another day we took a car to Auschwitz – quite an experience. We watched a film about it then my PA took a guided tour while I sat and waited for her to come back. It really is quite harrowing.

It was good to see Poland and very good that by being accompanied by my PA, my ambition to travel was fulfilled. Perhaps Sicily will be my next adventure!

Ed.

Contact an ILA if you need advice as to whether your DP can be used to pay for something out-of-the ordinary.



Tips & Advice

Alternative Uses of Direct Payments

Direct Payments can be used in many ways as long as what you buy helps you meet your assessed personal support needs. The payments may be available as a one-off payment for a specific item or purpose, or as monthly payments towards providing regular personal support.

Examples of DP alternatives include:

Buying the services of a:

- Registered Child Minder
- Care/Support Agency worker
- Nanny
- Personal (care) Assistant
- Gardener
- Communicator guide for a person who is deaf and blind

Buying equipment such as:

- A computer
- Computer software
- Dictaphone

Contribute to the payment of fees for:

- Driving lessons for a carer
- Art and Music lessons
- Exercise, hydrotherapy & fitness classes
- Playscheme for disabled children
- Adult Education and learning courses
- Riding for disabled people

Using payments to:

- Travel to meet family members
- Pay for shopping to be delivered to your home
- Buy meals delivered from the cafe next door rather than having meals-on-wheels
- Enable carers to take a break
- Keep a specially trained Assisted Dog for a disabled person

'Pooling' together Direct Payments with other recipients to:

- Pay a person to co-ordinate the business of people with a learning difficulty who make and sell gifts.
- Set up a holiday club for children



Richmond Users Independent Living Scheme (RUILS) is an independent, grassroots, self-help organisation that acts as the champion, representative and peer supporter of all those local people who use Direct Payments, personal assistants and other means to achieve a more independent and inclusive lifestyle.

Help us to help each other

As a self-help group of individuals who are receiving Direct Payments, we value your knowledge, skills and experience and invite you to share your know-how with others.

For further information about volunteering opportunities, the services and events mentioned here, or a copy of this newsletter in Braille, large print, audio tape or community language, please contact us at:

RICHMOND USERS INDEPENDENT LIVING SCHEME (RUILS)

Disability Action and Advice Centre
4 Waldegrave Road
Teddington
TW11 8HT

T: 020 8831 6083 /4
E: info@ruils.co.uk
www.ruils.co.uk

Registered Charity Number 1099930

OPTIONS is produced with the financial support of:



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The information contained in this newsletter is intended to provide only a general outline of the subjects covered. It should neither be regarded as comprehensive nor sufficient for making decisions, nor should it be used in place of professional advice. The editor and RUILS disclaim all responsibility for any loss arising from any action taken or not taken by anyone using the information in this publication.

Per informata te metutjeshme lidhur me sherbimet, mundesite per tu bere vullnetare ose per kopjen e ketij botimi ne gjuhen e te verberve (Braille), me shkronja te medha, ne kasete ose ne gjuhen tuaj, ju lutemi kontaktoni

如欲查詢更多有關各項服務、義工工作機會的訊息，或者索取這份出版物的盲人點字、大字體印刷、錄音帶或另一種語言的印本，請聯絡：

ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ ਬਾਰੇ ਜਾਂ ਵਲੰਟੀਅਰ ਕੰਮਾਂ ਬਾਰੇ ਹੋਰ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਲੈਣ ਲਈ ਜਾਂ ਇਸ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨ ਦੀ ਇਕ ਕਾਪੀ ਬਰੇਲ, ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ, ਸੁਣਨ ਵਾਲੀ ਟੇਪ 'ਤੇ ਜਾਂ ਹੋਰ ਬੋਲੀਆਂ ਵਿਚ ਲੈਣ ਲਈ ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ

ਸੇਵਾઓ ਵਿਖੇ ਅਥਵਾ ਸ਼ਵਯੰਸ਼ੇਵਕ ਤਰੀਕੇਨੀ ਤਕੋ ਵਿਖੇ ਤਮਨੇ ਵਖੂ ਮਾਛਿਤੀ ਜੋਏਤੀ ਛੋਯ, ਅਥਵਾ ਆ ਪੁਸਤਿਕਾਨੀ ਨਕਲ ਅੰਖਵਿਪਿ (ਭੇਲ)ਮਾਂ, ਮੋਟੀ ਚਪਾਠਮਾਂ, ਓਡਿਯੋ ਟੇਪ ਪਰ ਅਥਵਾ ਗੁਯਰਾਤੀ ਆਖਾਮਾਂ ਜੋਏਤੀ ਛੋਯ ਤੋ ਮਛੇਰਯਾਨੀ ਕਰੀ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਸਾਖੋ:

للمزيد من المعلومات حول الخدمات و فرص العمل التطوعي او للحصول على نسخة من هذا المنشور مطبوع بلغة برايل او مطبوع بالاحرف الكبيرة او نسخة مسجلة على شريط تسجيلي او مترجم بلغة الجالية الرجاء الاتصال على