

Richmond Users Independent Living Scheme (RUILS) is an independent, user-led organisation. We support disabled people (both young & old), older people & individuals who use mental health services to live independently and to get the most out of their Personal Budget & Direct Payment.

What are Direct Payments?

If you need support to live your life and have been assessed by Social Services you will be given a Personal Budget. A Personal Budget is the amount of money that the Council will give to you to get your support needs met. You will then need to write a Support Plan that identifies how you are going to spend that money.

One of your options is to take that money as a **Direct Payment**. With a Direct Payment the Council gives you the money and you decide how you would like to spend that money to get the support that you need.

Direct Payments give you more flexibility and choice, enabling you to decide what help you need and where and when to get it.

I employ a Personal Assistant (PA) to help me each morning, assisting with washing, dressing and preparing breakfast they also help me get ready for bed in the evenings.

Gillian (86)

I spend my money on going out for leisure and social activities with my PA.

Derek (34)

I used my Direct Payment to pay for a laptop which has helped me to stay in contact with friends and enrol on online learning courses.

Sarah (19)

How can I use the money?

You can use your Direct Payment to pay for anything (as long as it is legal) that meets your Support needs or Outcomes as described in your Support Plan.

For example:

- To pay for support to help you at home
- To pay for support to help you get out and about
- To help you do the things that are important to you
- To pay for a short break

What if I change my mind?

You can change your mind at any time and have a service arranged for you by the Council. You can have some of your support provided by the Council and some as a Direct Payment.

Remember, you can have as much help as you want to manage the support you choose. You can have help to manage the money too.

Independent Living Advisors:

Help you to set up and manage your Direct Payment. They can assist you to employ your own staff or find the activities and services for you to purchase.

Support Brokers:

Help you to write your Support Plan and to get that plan up and running.

paFinder:

Helps you to find the right individual to employ as your Personal (care) Assistant.

Options:

Our newsletter keeps you up to date on the latest events & gives you information and tips on how to get the most out of your support.

www.ruils.co.uk:

Our website carries a whole host of information. Log on to our web Forum to chat to others using Direct Payments.

Helpline:

Open between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday, our advisors can give you the help and advice that you need.

Where to find us



Richmond Users Independent Living Scheme (RUILS) Disability Action & Advice Centre (DAAC)

4 Waldegrave Road (A309)
Teddington, TW11 8HT
Helpline: 020 8831 6083
E-mail: info@ruils.co.uk
www.ruils.co.uk

Office Hours:

Monday to Friday: 9am - 5pm

The DAAC Centre

Our offices at the DAAC are fully wheelchair accessible. Disabled parking is available at the front and rear of the centre.

Direct Payments

Who Can Help?



Charity No: 1127896

Company No. (England & Wales): 6682677

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