

## **Direct payments some questions answered;**

### ***What is a direct payment?***

The local council gives cash to a disabled person to arrange their own care package. This is instead of them receiving services such as homecare or a day centre place.

### ***Who can get a direct payment?***

Anyone who is assessed as needing care services has the right to request them as a direct payment.

### ***Do you have to have a direct payment?***

You can say no! If the person you care for wants to continue receiving services as before then it is their choice.

### ***Will it make you an employer?***

It depends. If you use the money to employ someone via a care agency then no, however if you take on staff directly then yes you would be classed as an employer.

### ***What does being an employer entail?***

As an employer you are bound by employment law. You must have insurance, pay at least the minimum wage, do the payroll. There is lots of support to help you with this.

### ***Are there restrictions on who you can employ?***

Yes. The money can't usually be used to employ a spouse, partner or a close relative who lives in the same household as the disabled person. However they can employ close relatives who live elsewhere.

### ***What checks are there on how you spend the money?***

If you receive direct payments you'll need to account for the money you spend. Your local council will tell you what records need to be kept.

### ***Further Help***

National Centre for Independent Living    [www.ncil.org.uk](http://www.ncil.org.uk) tel 0845 601 8815

Ask your Care Manager if you have one or ring us at the ESCSA office on 01883 745057