

## **Direct Payments**

### **Factsheet - Death of Client Receiving a Direct Payment**

#### **If someone in receipt of direct payments dies**

When someone in receipt of direct payments dies, the council needs to be informed so that they can stop the arrangements that are in place. In such circumstances please contact the Direct Payments Support Team.

The Direct Payments Support Team will ask you for the name of the executor or the person who will be dealing with the affairs of the deceased (the executor will be named in the deceased's Will as the person who will deal with their affairs after their death). They will also ask if there is a solicitor. If there is a solicitor involved, please give their name and contact details, e.g. address and telephone number. We need this information so that we know to whom we need to send correspondence.

The Direct Payments Support Team will close the direct payment so that payments cease and will lock the card account.

#### **The Direct Payment Card Account**

Money from a direct payment has been provided to buy services for someone who needed social care support it does not form part of the person's estate and cannot be used for any purpose other than direct payment contractual obligations that need to be met. It cannot be used for such things as funeral expenses.

Any money left in the direct payment card account once all the contractual and legally required sums have been paid will be reclaimed by the council. We will advise you on how this will be done.

If you are the executor of the will you will need to find out if there are any contractual obligations or payments that need to be made from the dedicated direct payment card account. For example, if the deceased had been employing a Personal Assistant, this person will need to be paid for the work that they had already completed and any redundancy/holiday pay that was due to them.

#### **Redundancy payment due**

The redundancy payment due to each employee under the statutory redundancy payment scheme depends on the individual's age and length of service. If the deceased had employer's liability insurance cover, the policy may have provision to fund all or part of any redundancy payment due. Please contact the Direct

Payments Support Team for advice on this.

If you are not the executor of the will it is very important that they understand the Direct Payments policy. They may not know how direct payments work. They need to

be made aware that the card account is a dedicated direct payment account and that the remaining money in it, after all contractual and legally required sums have been paid out, will be reclaimed by the Council. The Direct Payments Support Team can help communicate requirements to the executor.

### **What happens if there is no will?**

If there is no will the individual is said to have died 'intestate'. Usually a close relative like a spouse, child or parent will be able to apply for the legal right to sort out the estate of the person who has died. To administer someone's estate you (or the friend or relative) will need to apply to the Probate Registry for a 'Grant of Letters of Administration'. It is advisable that you obtain a solicitor to help you through the process. On receipt of the grant, you or the individual will become the 'administrator' of the estate. The grant provides proof to banks, building societies and other organisations that you have authority to access and distribute funds that were held in the deceased's name. Once you receive this you need to contact the Direct Payments Support Team so that we can authorise you to access the direct payment card account and make any payments that need to be made. Once all payments have been made, please contact the Direct Payments Support Team so that we can reclaim the remaining balance.

### **Where can I get more information?**

If you would like help with assessing your social care needs, please contact the council's First Response Team.

#### **First response team:**

Phone: 020 8489 1400 Email: [firstresponseteam@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:firstresponseteam@haringey.gov.uk)

If you would like more information on direct payments or would like support with your direct payment, please contact the Direct Payments Support Team.

#### **Direct Payments Support Team:**

Phone: 020 8489 8456

Email:

[PersonalBudgetSupport@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:PersonalBudgetSupport@haringey.gov.uk)

#### **Disability Action Haringey (DAH):**

[Disability Action Haringey](http://DisabilityActionHaringey.org)

Phone: 0203 355 0071

Email: [info@d-a-h.org](mailto:info@d-a-h.org)

## **If you have a mental health problem**

If you need help in a crisis you can now self-refer to the Crisis Resolution Home Treatment service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, Lea Unit, St Ann's Hospital, Haringey 020 8702 6700.

If you are a carer and would like more information on receiving support, please contact Haringey Carers First.

### **Haringey Carers First.**

[Haringey Carers First](#) Phone: 0300 303 1555

Email: [hello@carersfirst.org.uk](mailto:hello@carersfirst.org.uk)

Address: Resource Hub, 1 Russell Road, Leyton, E10 7ES

## **Skills for Care**

The Skills for Care website provides more information on what is a Personal Assistant (PA) and what is involved if you want to use your direct payment to employ a PA:

[Support for individual employers and PAs](#)

This information is presented in a range of toolkits. If you are unable to access the Skills for Care website, you can call **0113 245 1716**.