

Brokerage & Direct Payment Service

Making it easier
to manage
personal care
budgets

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Carers

Are you a carer? A guide to the carer's assessment and what services you may be entitled to.

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Direct Payments & Brokerage For Carers

Help for carers

If you are looking after someone who needs support due to a disability or are elderly, you are a carer. Carers are more likely to suffer stress, depression and anxiety as well as backache and lack of sleep. But there are people and organisations who can help.

The support that you may get includes respite care to give you a break; emotional support at carers' groups; and help with your caring duties.

Carer Assessments & Direct Payments (DP)

If you are a carer you are entitled to a free assessment of your needs from the Council, just like the person you care for is entitled to one for their own needs. The assessment will cover a number of areas, including:

- how much care you are providing
- how caring affects your health and wellbeing and ability to study or work
- if you have support in case of an emergency or if you needed to have a break.

Following your carer's assessment, you may be entitled to a Carer's Direct Payment to support you in your caring role.

What could I use Carer's Direct Payments for?

What support you choose depends on your circumstances. Here are some examples:

- *paid for a flight to visit family living abroad*
- *gone to the theatre, or for a meal out*
- *had regular therapeutic treatments*
- *paid for a cleaner, gardener or washing machine*
- *bought a shed for some 'quiet space'*

The carer must submit evidence of how the Direct Payment has been spent. If Buckinghamshire County Council do not receive this evidence then the carer will not be entitled to a further Direct Payment.

How can Brokerage help carers?

If you are given a one-off direct payment, Brokerage can help relieve the extra stress of deciding how to use it. Our brokerage service is a team of independent Support Brokers who are fully trained and accredited by the National Broker Network. A support broker will discuss your needs with you. They will help you choose the best options to relieve the pressure of your caring role and develop a support plan that says how you will use your direct payment as well as other services that may not incur charges.

Support brokers can also help you plan for the future or an unplanned event such as sickness. They will discuss what options could be put in place to support you if you were unable to care for your loved one.

How do I get referred to Brokerage?

For a Carer's Assessment contact the BCC Personalisation Team on **01296 383204**. For a referral please contact the social worker who completed your assessment or the Council on **01296 383204**.