

FACTSHEET 15:

Pooling Your Funding with Others:

A Direct Payment is money given to you by Flintshire County Council to help you to meet your agreed support needs and personal outcomes in ways that you choose.

Direct Payments can be used flexibly, giving you more choice and control than if the council made these arrangements for you. However, the money you spend must be within your current funding (the amount of money you have been told you will get as a Direct Payment)

Many people use their direct payments to arrange individual care and support by either employing a personal Assistant, or buying support from a Care Agency.

However, there is another option;

Direct payments enable people to come together to share their support. This means that two or more direct payments users may choose to put some of their money together to arrange support that meets all of their needs. This could be for things like going out socially, creating a group, arranging respite care, or potentially creating a small enterprise. The potential to do things collectively could be significant and really exciting for some people.

This is known as Pooling Funds.

These are some of the potential benefits:

Pooling funds can give you better value for money

When you pool your funds with other people you are sharing the costs of the things you pay for, which will help you to make your available funds go further.

**You can be far more creative with how you meet your needs
And achieve your personal goal and outcomes**

Putting your heads together and thinking collectively, may help you to come up with more creative ideas, which are not only more cost effective, but help you to get more out of your opportunities.

Become more independent

Pooling your funds could help you to try new things that you haven't had the confidence to do on your own.

You could spend your pooled funds on something that helps you to overcome barriers you currently face.

You may feel that there isn't currently anything in your area that is right for you, so could consider setting something up alongside people you know. For example, you could set up your own activity as a group.

Increase your social networks and shared activities with people who have common interests

Being part of a group or partnership which has similar interests to you could be a more enjoyable and sociable way to meet new people and help you to achieve your personal goals.

If you would like to find out more, please contact:

Direct Payments Support Service

Tel: 01352 701100

Email: dp.support@flintshire.gov.uk



“Direct Payments have given me freedom of choice.”