

## What is CFDP?

Children and Families Direct Payments is a service that provides a range of information and practical support for disabled children (up to the age of 18) and their families in receipt of, or interested in taking up, direct payments within Kent. We are part of the Parents Consortium, a parent-led voluntary sector organisation based in Hextable.

## What are direct payments?

A direct payment is money that you may be entitled to from Kent County Council (KCC) that would allow you to be in control of your child's care needs instead of having them arranged for you.

## Who is entitled to direct payments?

- A parent of a disabled child
- A disabled young person aged 16 to 17 years

## How do I begin receiving direct payments?

If you have read the above information and would like to consider the option of direct payments further, here are the next steps to taking control of your child's care needs.

### Step 1. Undertake a 'core assessment'

In order to qualify for a direct payment you must have an assessment of need agreed by a professional. If you have already had an assessment, then head to 'Step 2'. If, however you have NOT had an assessment please call Kent County Council's, Contact and Assessment Service (KCAS) on 08458 247 100 and ask to speak to the 'Children with Disabilities Assessment Team'. Alternatively look at the KCC website.

Lots of families with disabled children report that they have struggled to get an assessment from their Local Authority. Under the law, councils must assess every child who is or may be a child 'in need'. Children are 'in need' if they are 'disabled'. Therefore, it is unlawful for a local authority to refuse an assessment for a disabled child.

It is not uncommon for families to feel overwhelmed by the prospect of an assessment. For support and advice regarding how best to prepare for an assessment you can speak with '**Contact a Family**', offering national support on **0808 808 3555** or '**Kent PEPS**', the local Advisory group for Kent on **07526 13 00 52**. Both have internet based information.

## **Step 2. Speak with your Social Worker to discuss direct payments**

If you undertake an assessment and are found to be eligible for direct payments speak to your social worker about exploring the option of direct payments.

## **Step 3. CFDP get involved!**

If your social worker decides that direct payments are suitable for the needs of your child, you will be referred to CFDP. It is at this stage that you will then be allocated a CFDP support worker who will explain the direct payment process and provide you with the appropriate support and information you require. From this point onwards we will work with you to ensure that you are fully aware of what direct payments entail and that, if you decide to go ahead with direct payments, the process is as simple as possible.

## **Get In Contact**

If you would like more information about direct payments or CFDP, you can contact our helpline between 10.00am and 4.00pm, Monday to Thursday.

Tel: 01322 669 245

Email: [office@cfdp.co.uk](mailto:office@cfdp.co.uk)

Web: [www.cfdp.co.uk](http://www.cfdp.co.uk)