

Direct Payments for care in North Somerset

Fact sheet 6

Using a direct payment to pay for respite

An informal carer provides unpaid care and support to someone who could not manage without this.

Respite means that the person who provides informal care can get a break from caring, while the person they care for is supported by someone else. It lets the carer take time to look after themselves and can help sustain the relationship between the carer and the person being supported.

You can use a direct payment to fund respite as agreed in your care and support plan. A direct payment allows you to think about how your informal carer can have a break. Having a break or respite means different things to different people. It could involve time away for a few hours, days, or a week or more.

You can use your direct payment to:

- Pay for a short stay in residential care home.
- Employ family or friends to provide support whilst your informal carer has a break.
- Employ a PA or agency to support you at home.
- Pay for you to have a break away from your home so your informal carer can get a break at home.
- You can choose what works for you if it gives your informal carer a break.



The amount you get will depend on your care needs assessment and agreed in your care and support plan. Your direct payment for respite will be paid in one annual payment so that you can use it when needed

Shared Lives is a service that allows an individual to stay with a Shared Lives carer in the Shared Lives carer's family home. [Shared Lives | North Somerset Council \(n-somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk). Shared Lives can provide you with short breaks, however this is a council run service so you will not be able to use a direct payment to fund this. The council will arrange this for you. If you are interested in Shared Lives please speak to your allocated worker.

Unpaid carers are entitled to a carers assessment. If your informal carer would like a carers assessment, they can request this by contacting Care Connect.

How to contact North Somerset social services:

Care connect is the first point of contact for all social services adult care general enquiries.

Care Connect

Town Hall
Walliscotte Grove Road
Weston-super-Mare
BS23 1UJ

Telephone: 01275 888 801

email: careconnect@n-somerset.gov.uk

Council documents can be made available in large print, audio, easy read and other formats. Documents on our website can also be emailed to you as plain text files. Help is also available for people who require council information in languages other than English. Contact Jennifer.monks@n-somerset.gov.uk