



Citizen Directed Co-operatives Cymru



Answers



1. What is a Direct Payment?



If you get support from social services, you can ask Social Services to:

- sort out your support for you
- give you a Direct Payment



A Direct Payment is money from the local council.



You use the money to sort out your own support.





2. What is a co-operative?

A co-operative is a type of group.



People in the co-operative are called members.



Members join a co-operative to help each other and make life better.



Everyone in the co-operative has an equal say and an equal vote.



3. What does “citizen directed” mean?

“Citizen directed” means support workers and carers work with you to help you get the life you want.



You can find out more from wacds.org.uk



4. What is a direct payment co-operative or citizen directed co-operative?



This is a co-operative for people who have a Direct Payment.



People who have a Direct Payment can join the co-operative.



The members will run the co-operative.

The co-operative will support its members to have more choice and more control of their support.



5. What is good about a Direct Payment co-operative?



A Direct Payment gives you more choice. It is easier to get the support you want.



But some people think a Direct Payment is too hard. They do not want to be employers. They do not want to do the paperwork.



Co-operative members can help each other with their Direct Payments.

Co-operative members can share ideas, information and PAs



6. If I join the co-operative, am I still an employer?



This is up to the co-operative members.



We **think** the co-operative will be the employer and do all the legal work of being an employer.



We **think** you will still choose your PA and tell your PA what you want them to do.



7. Who will get the Direct Payment?



This is up to the co-operative members.

We **think** the Direct Payment will still be paid into your bank account.



8. Will it replace Direct Payment support schemes?



No.

You can choose.

You can join the co-operative. You can use the Direct Payment support scheme.



Do you want to know more?



Contact:

Rebecca Newsome

Citizen Directed Co-operatives Cymru

Development Officer

Rebecca.newsome@disabilitywales.org

