



# Making Direct Payments work for you



## What are Direct Payments?

- Some people get their money for social care straight from the council.
- They get to decide how they spend it. They decide what services they buy.
- This is called **Direct Payments**.
- You can share running your Direct Payments with a group of friends.
- There are new ways to use Direct Payments. This could help you do more things and have more fun with your life.



## Friends Co-operative

- **Friends Co-operative** is a group of four friends
- Some of them share a house. They all live nearby.



- They are going to use their **Direct Payments** to employ Personal Assistants.
- Working together will give them more time to do fun things.



## Personal Assistants

What can **Personal Assistants** do?

- They can help the friends one at a time
- They can support all the friends together in a group



How can sharing support help the friends?

- They can get out more
- They can feel less lonely
- They do things that make them happy



## Direct Payments co-operatives

Being part of a co-operative means you can work together to:

- Pay staff
- Plan rotas
- Find new staff
- Decide what training the staff need

**When you work together you can be more in charge of your life.**



## New rules

- The Welsh Government has changed the rules.
- It is easier to start a small co-operative group with your friends.





## What it means for you

- Friends can join together
- You can employ your own Personal Assistants
- You can share your Personal Assistants
- You do not have to register as a care service
- You can start a small co-operative group like Friends Co-operative



## How to contact us

- The **Care to Co-operate** team can help you.
- The Care to Co-operate team is part of the **Wales Co-operative Centre**.



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