

Easy Read



Citizen Directed Co-operatives Cymru

This leaflet is about our new project called citizen directed co-operatives Cymru.



This is an Easy Read version of the '**Citizen Directed Co-operatives Cymru: Working together for independence**' leaflet

March 2015



Introduction

This project has been set up to help people take control of their support services.



If you get support services from your local council this project will help you make decisions like:



- who gives you help
- where and when you get your help
- what help you could get.

This project is run by Disability Wales and Wales Co-operative Centre.

What is a citizen directed co-operative?



A **citizen directed co-operative** is where people work together to get the support they choose.



A **co-operative** is like a business that is owned and run by its members. Every member will have an equal say about how the co-operative is run.



Citizen directed means it's all about what is best for the people in the co-operative.



It's about finding out what's important to you, your family and the community. And then working together to get that.

How will it work?

If you want to be a member of the **co-operative** you will need to ask for **direct payments**.



Direct payments are when you are given money to choose and buy the support you need instead of getting services from your local council.



You choose what services you want and the **co-operative** will help you to get them and manage them.



For example you can hire your own **personal assistant**. But the **co-operative** will be the employer. So they will deal with the hard paperwork for you.



A **personal assistant** is someone who helps you to live independently. For example, giving you support and help.



Why is it good?

You have control over your own services.



You can join up with other members to spend your money. You can use your money to do activities you enjoy. You will get more for your money in a big group.



You will get help to learn how to work with your **personal assistant**. You can also get support from other members.

Find out more



You can find out more about [citizen directed co-operatives](#) by:



- going to a roadshow - there will be lots of events all over Wales to tell people about [citizen directed co-operatives](#).



- going to a training workshops - this is for people who want to start their own [co-operative](#).



- get in touch with Disability Wales - you can contact Rebecca Newsome any time to find out more. She is the person in charge of making the project work.



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Website: www.disabilitywales.org/projects/current-projects/citizen-directed-co-operative-cymru-project