**Citizen Directed Co-operatives Cymru**

**FAQs**

1. **What’s a direct payment?**

Direct payments enable service users to receive **money** from their local authoritywhich allows them to choose and arrange their own support instead of being dependent on services provided by their local authority.

1. **What’s a co-operative?**

A co-operative is a “group of people or businesses working together for the benefit of all members.”

A co-operative is autonomous and democratically controlled by its members. This jointly owned enterprise enables members to strive towards meeting common goals.

1. **What does “citizen directed” mean?**

Citizen Directed Support (CDS) is a set of ideas to build good relationships with people who support us to achieve **our** goals and live **our** lives as **we** choose. (See <http://wacds.org.uk/> for more info)

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

It is an alternative way for citizens to manage their direct payments.

Direct payment recipients will be the members who will jointly own, run and develop the co-operative. All decisions about how the co-operative will run will be made by the members, supporting greater choice, voice and control for citizens.

1. **What are the benefits of a direct payment co-operative?**

A direct payment co-operative will enable recipients to retain the benefits of direct payments (such as choice, flexibility and independence) whilst offering a new way to overcome some of the barriers (such as employment responsibilities / admin etc)

A co-operative could also offer other benefits to members such as peer support, sharing of resources, and supporting innovation.

1. **Who would employ the Personal Assistant in a direct payment co-operative?**

We envisage that the members of the co-operative would choose manage and direct their PAs. However, we imagine that the co-operative would be the employer of the personal assistants and have employment responsibility - such as insurance: payroll, admin, employment disputes etc. (The model of the co-operative will be decided by the citizens driving the project forward.)

1. **Who will the direct payment be paid to in a direct payment co-operative?**

We envisage that the direct payment will be paid directly to the citizen. (The model of the co-operative will be decided by the citizens driving the project forward.)

1. **Will it replace direct payment support schemes?**

No. The co-operative will sit alongside direct payment support schemes and provide citizens with an extra option for managing their direct payments.

The co-operative approach will not suit all direct payment recipients, but it will be an available option for those who want the benefits that a direct payment co-operative can bring.

For more information please contact:

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