

Please ask for: Direct Payments support Team
Email: DPGovernance@somerset.gov.uk
Tel no: 01823 359184
Date: 8th April 2020

Dear

Direct Payment During COVID-19

Somerset County Council, in line with Central Government policy, are committed to supporting our carer networks. To ensure we still have the services needed post COVID-19 we have taken the decision to continue to fund all services as per usual whether they are delivered or not.

As a direct payment holder, we are asking that you continue to pay for your usual services in full via the usual mechanisms. All providers have been asked to continue to invoice direct payment clients as they normally would.

We recognise that during this time you may need to use your Direct Payment in an alternative way, or you may require additional care to support your child and yourself. If this is the case, please contact your allocated worker. Following a discussion with you about why changes to the Direct Payment agreement are needed we will work with you to either agree how your Direct Payment can be used in an alternative way; if necessary we may be able to provide additional funds to meet your needs or arrange for care to be delivered via an alternative route.

When you have the next review of your direct payment, post COVID-19, any funds that were not required for care during this time will be returned to the local authority.

Yours sincerely

Jackie Miles

Operations Manager Children with Disabilities Service.