



# Direct Payments: make them work for you

- Do you receive Direct Payments to employ a personal assistant or support worker?
- Do you want to take on a personal assistant or support worker, and share their management with other people who receive Direct Payments?
- Do you sometimes feel lonely and want to spend more time with friends, either at home or out and about having fun?

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If you said 'yes' to any of those questions, then we think we can help you have more choice about how you spend your days.

There's a new way to manage your Direct Payments and employ staff who provide care and support for you and for your friends. The Care to Co-operate team at the Wales Co-operative Centre can help you make this happen.

## Friends Co-operative - who are they?

Imagine there's a group of friends that Care to Co-operate is working with. They plan to use Direct Payments to employ Personal Assistants. This will give them more freedom to spend time together, at home and out in their local community.

At the moment, three of the friends live together and the other friend lives nearby. Together they have formed into a new group called *Friends Co-operative*.

As *Friends Co-operative* they are currently applying for Direct Payments. They want to put their payments together and employ staff to care and support all of them.

At times the friends will want one-to-one care from their PAs, but often they will want the PAs to support them together to;

- Help to do things that make them happy,
- Stop them from being lonely,
- Go with them to fun activities in the local area.



## What's in it for me and my friends?

For *Friends Co-operative*, putting their Direct Payments together means they are all responsible for paying staff, making sure they keep a rota and that staff training is up-to-date.

Being part of the group gives the friends a big voice and control over their lives. They have power to do things together that make them happy. They are not treated differently to their neighbours, other friends or family.

Importantly, the four friends can now plan activities together, at home and in the local area.

## One more thing you need to know...

Good news! The Welsh Government say that a small group – that's up to four friends – can, as a co-operative, employ PAs to provide *personal care* as well as all the things they need. The really good news is... these groups don't need to register with Welsh Government as a care service! And we're here to help...

## Interested? Then get in touch

Our Care to Co-operate team want to help you do the same thing as Friends Co-operative. We would like to help you set up your own small co-operative group – so give us a call on **0300 111 5050**, email us at [care@wales.coop](mailto:care@wales.coop) or tweet us [@WalesCoOpCentre](https://twitter.com/WalesCoOpCentre)

## The Care to Co-operate team are

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