

East Lothian Council

FOI Ref: 2018/091(13183)

Do you provide adult and childcare support in your area?

Yes, subject to eligibility criteria

Do you work with a Support Organisation for the provision of direct payments?

Service users accessing Direct Payments can choose to work with either Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living (LCIL) who provide employment support and payroll services or with Independent Cash Management Services who provide mainly payroll service

If yes, which Support Organisation do you work with?

As above

How many direct payment recipients are there in your local authority?

Adult Wellbeing (AW) - on average 120 (however this number can fluctuate)

Children's Services (CS) – 49

Of the direct payment recipients, how many of these employ a carer?

AW - Approximately 50% employ personal assistants.

CS - All of these recipients employ a personal assistant or worker from an agency.

For recipients of direct payments, how do they buy insurance cover – do you provide a panel of insurers they can choose from or do you recommend a specific insurance company?

LCIL advise on insurance and hold a list of approved companies who provide Employers Liability Insurance cover to the appropriate level. Service users can choose the insurance provider.

CS - The Council covers this financially within the 'start up costs' for the first year of the DP.

Do you advise direct payment recipients on how much they should spend on insurance?

AW - East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership fund an initial insurance premium of £135, renewals are funded through contingency within hourly rate.

CS – No, LCIL advise on insurance

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Is there a payment cap in place for insurance policies for care provision?

AW – service user can choose provider as long as there are sufficient funds within DP account.

CS – Yes

Do you operate a block insurance policy for your direct payment recipients?

No

How do you select your insurance provider for your service users? (Please rank from 1 – 3 in order of importance with 1 being the most important)

- ***Cheapest price***
- ***HR advice and support for customers***
- ***Ease of processing customer information***

Not applicable, LCIL advise on insurance.

Who, in your local authority, oversees the provision of direct payments and insurance for your service users?

AW - East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership fund Direct Payment (subject to eligibility) – service users work with LCIL to recruit, issue contracts of employment and purchase insurance cover from funds provided.

CS - DP are reviewed every six months by a member of the Children’s Disability Team.

Finally, it may help to explain that Freedom of Information legislation only applies to information which is held or recorded by a public authority. It does not apply to views, opinions, intentions or questions which simply require a yes/no answer. In view of this, some of the questions asked are not technically valid for the purposes of this legislation as they are not requests for specific recorded information that East Lothian Council may or may not hold.

In order to assist you, however, colleagues have addressed the questions posed to the best of their knowledge. For future reference, a link to the “Tips for Requesters” page of the Scottish Information Commissioner’s website has been provided which you may find useful:

<http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Tipsforrequesters.aspx>