



**Children's Social Care  
Direct Payments  
Policy & Guidance**

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## **What is a Direct Payment?**

A Direct Payment is a cash payment made to you by the Council so you can arrange to pay for your own care and support, rather than receive services directly from the Council. You use the money to meet your agreed eligible needs e.g. personal care needs.

You can use the money to employ staff or pay an agency to provide the support you need as identified in your support plan.

With a Direct Payment you are in control and you decide who supports you, how they do it, and when.

## **Who can receive Direct Payments?**

- People with disabilities aged 16 and over, including people who have a sensory impairment, have learning disabilities, are disabled through illness (including mental illness), and older people.
- People with parental responsibility for a disabled child.
- Carers aged 16 and over who provide care for an adult who is eligible to receive community care services can receive Direct Payments for their needs as Carers.
- You must be willing to receive Direct Payments instead of a service provided by the Council and be able to manage organising your own support either alone or with assistance.
- You cannot receive Direct Payments if you come under a part of Mental Health or Criminal Justice Law which says your social care services must be arranged for you.

## Direct Payments for Children with Disabilities

The Children with Disabilities Team are able to offer a direct payment to the parents of children who have severe or substantial disabilities, specifically:

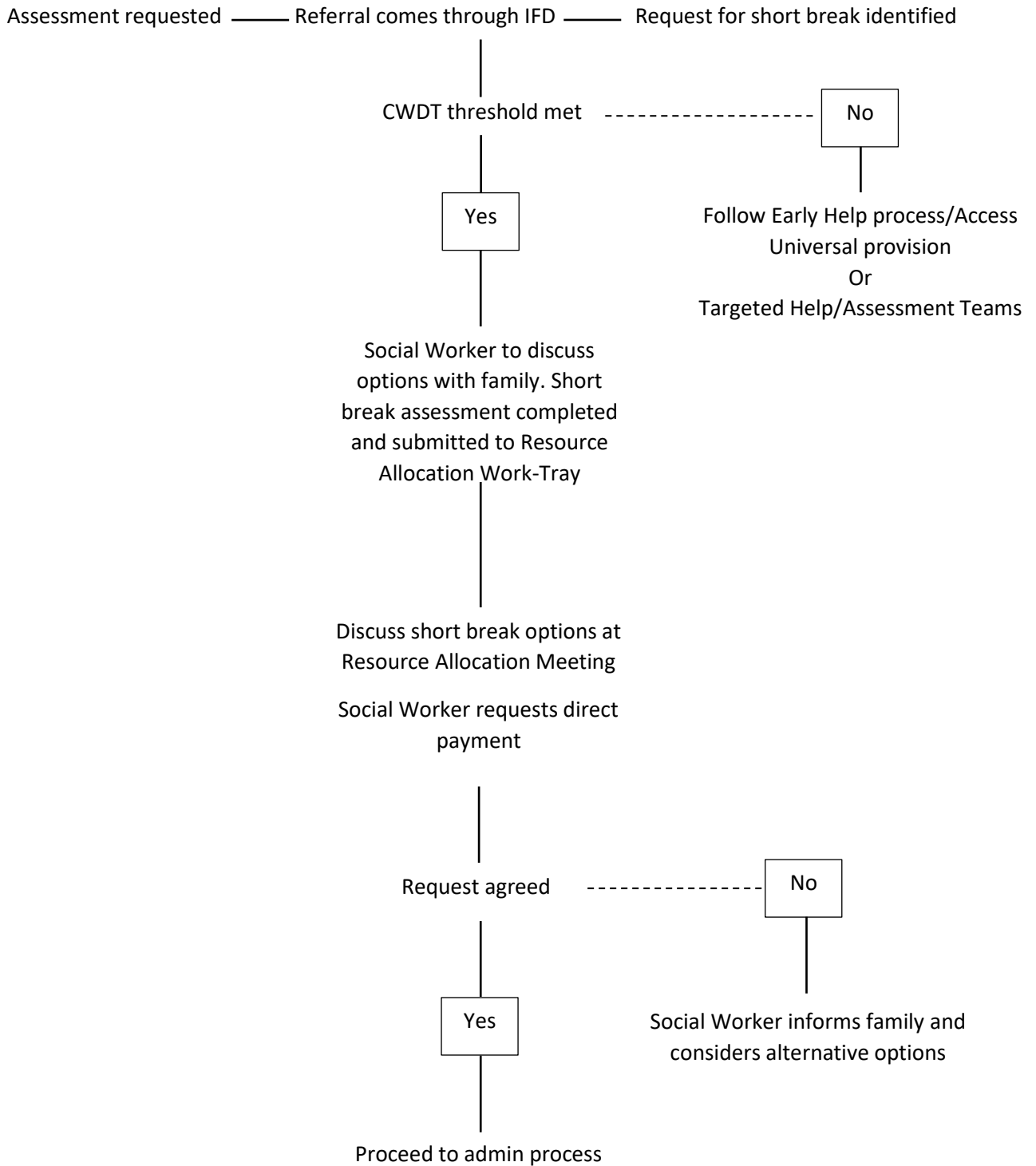
- A severe or profound learning disability.
- A severe physical disability.
- A complex Autistic Spectrum Condition with severe learning disability.
- A complex medical health condition.
- All requests for specialist services will require a short break assessment to be completed.

Where there is an assessed need for specialist services, a direct payment can be requested as a cash alternative to eligible short break care and/or domiciliary services. For example:

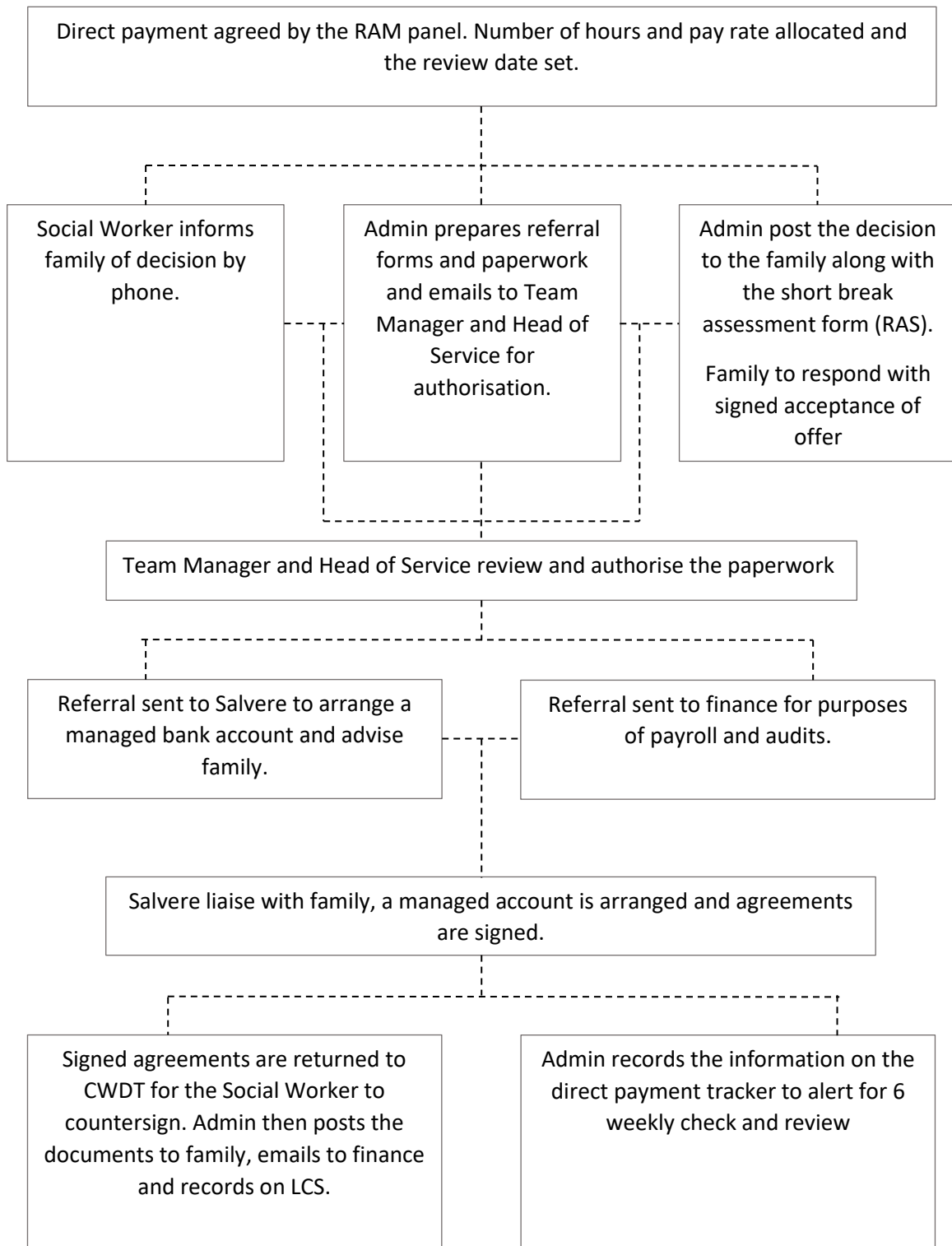
- Day-time care in the homes of disabled children or elsewhere.
- Overnight care in the homes of disabled children or elsewhere.
- Leisure activities for disabled children outside their homes.
- Services available to assist carers in the evenings, at weekends and during the school holidays.

## Process for Direct Payment

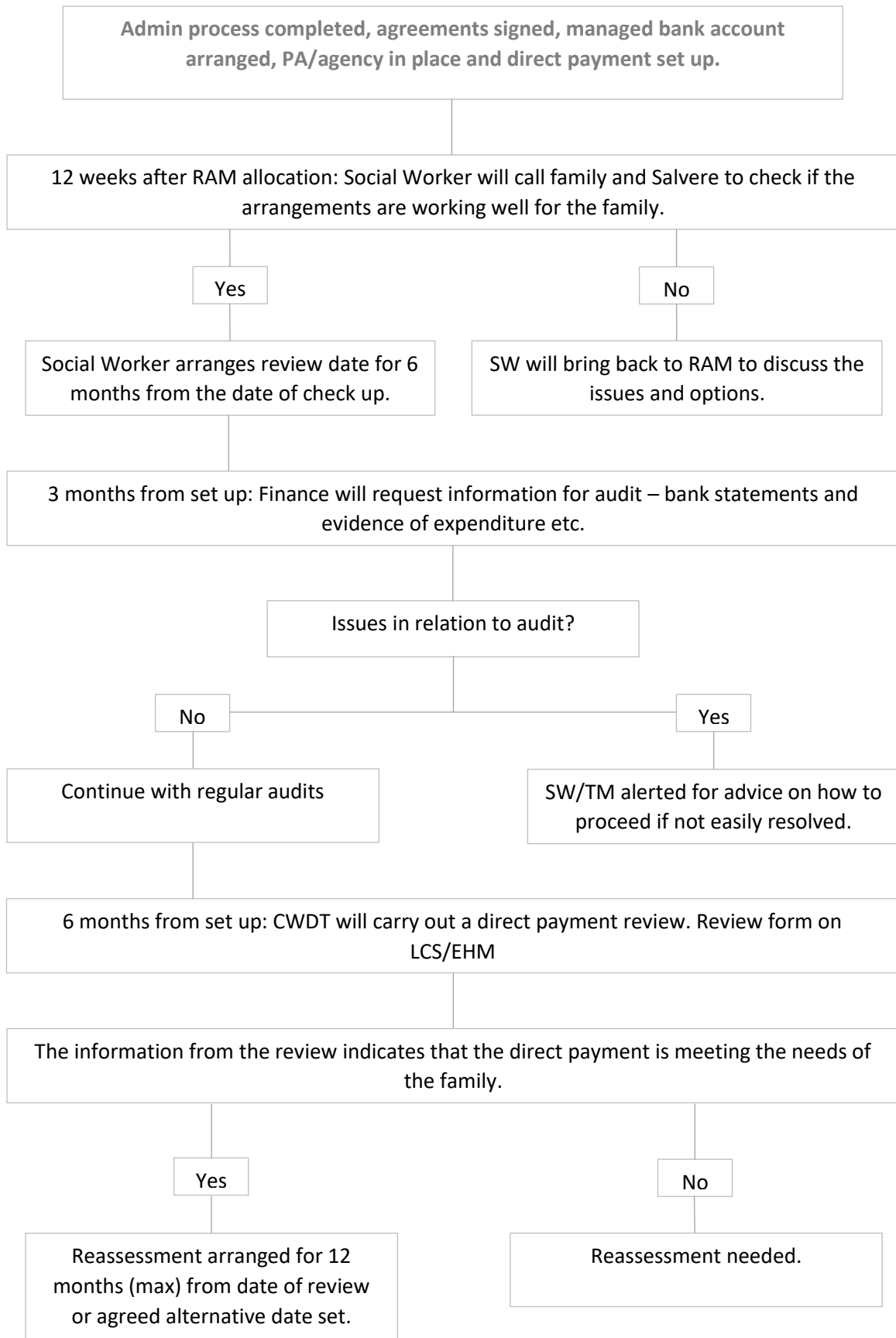
### Setting up payment



## Administration process for direct payments



## Monitoring and Review Process



## Further Information

For further information including:

*Direct payment agreements*

*Employing a personal assistant*

*When needs change*

*Monitoring and review of direct payments*

*Action when overspend is identified*

*Ending a direct payment*

Please see the following documents on Bolton Council Intranet:

<https://boltoncouncilcloud.sharepoint.com/DirectPayment%20Policy.docx?d=w0dd4b94f9da3425abf87a9e7a3c8f4d6&csf=1&web=1&e=gEYLbK>

<https://boltoncouncilcloud.sharepoint.com/:b:/r/sites/intranet/Shared%20Documents/Direct%20Payments%20Quick%20Guide%20May%202022.pdf?csf=1&web=1&e=ergc4g>

For the SEND Short Break Statement and referral guidance please visit:

[Worried about a child? – Bolton Council](#)