

FOI 4028

## Direct Payments and Emergency Discharge Packages

Provide the following information in the Northern Trust area:

### 1. What is the 2026 budget for Direct Payments?

£15,376,473 across all service areas.

### 2. How much of that budget has been allocated to date and to the end of the 2026 financial year?

£15,693,709 has been recorded as spent as at the end of the financial year FY25/26.

### 3. How much budget is left over to date and to the end of the 2026 financial year?

There has been an overspend recorded of £317,235.

### 4. What are the maximum hours of direct payment can one person receive per week?

This would be dependent on the outcome of the assessed need of the individual. However, a short break at home would not exceed the cost of a residential or nursing bed placement per week minus client contribution.

### 5. What is the criteria for increased direct payments?

A review of the individual's assessed needs to determine if an increase in social care funding is required to meet the change in needs and it also meets the eligibility criteria for funding approval. This is required for all 4 options in SDS (Self Directed Support), including a Direct Payment.

### 6. What is the timescale for someone with increased need to have their increase in direct payments approved?

Unable to provide a timescale. Each programme of care within the Northern Trust has processes in place to manage funding approval requests, which includes increases to a Direct Payment.

### 7. What is the criteria for an emergency discharge package?

The Northern Trust does not have emergency discharge packages.

However, the Northern Trust offers an Emergency Direct Payment (EDP) to those individuals who are medically fit for discharge from acute hospital or Intermediate care beds and following an assessment of need, require a social care package on discharge.

**8. Who is prioritised for an emergency discharge package?**

As above the Northern Trust does not have emergency discharge packages.

**9. How many people in the Northern Trust are waiting for an emergency discharge package?**

As above the Northern Trust does not have emergency discharge packages.