

Country: **United Kingdom**

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Background and legislation	<p>Taking their inspiration from disabled people in the US disabled people in the UK campaigned for independent living from the 1970s onwards. In 1979 residents at an institution in Hampshire, Southern England, formed a group called Project 81 to plan their escape from residential care and to be able to live in the community by employing their own personal assistants. It was called Project 81 to reflect the UN international year of disabled people in 1981. It took three years to complete their escape helped by sympathetic local authority social work managers. Disabled people then went on to form the first Centre for Independent Living in 1984. In 1993 the UK government declared the practice of local authorities giving disabled funds so that they could employ their own personal assistants to be illegal. This led to a national campaign by disabled people to change the law which was successful in 1996 when parliament passed the Community Care (Direct Payments) Act. At first only people with a physical or sensory impairment could have a direct payment. Now the law applies to any disabled person or older person with support needs.</p> <p>Disabled people have been able to employ their own personal assistants for many years now but this does not mean that all disabled people have independent living. Because of budget cuts many disabled people are no longer eligible for support and those that do get direct payments are having them reduced and restricted. For this reason the focus is to bring about a right to independent living through article 19 of the UNCRPD and trying to achieve the right through domestic legislation</p>
Type of legislation	<p>Personal Assistance through direct payments:</p> <p>• Community Care</p> <p>Direct Payments Act (1996) came into force (1997)</p>
Administrator of PA services	The recipient of the direct payment
Funder of services	Local authorities
Disabilities covered	All

ENIL PA TABLE – UK – 17/2/13

Amount of hours per day/week possible	It depends on individual needs and the resources they are allocated
Assessment of needs: and how often	Assessed by the local council social services department, after the initial assessment assessed when circumstances change
Hourly rate funded	<p>The direct payment received will depend on the assessment the council makes of the needs.</p> <p>The Government introduced a statutory national minimum wage from 1 April 1999.</p> <p>According to national guidance the hourly rate should include not just the amount paid to the personal assistant but also the costs of employing the PA such as insurance.</p>
Age requirement	Any adult over the age of 18 and disabled young people aged 16 and 17
Total number of direct payment recipients	About 100,000 across the UK as a whole. The numbers have risen sharply in the last 5 years following government commitment to personalising social care services. They are now starting to fall as a result of a tightening in the eligibility criteria although the amount spend by local authorities on direct payment is still rising