

# Southampton City Council

## DRAFT Direct Payment Policy

### Proposed Standard Rates



## Full information on standard rates can be found within the [Draft Direct Payment Policy](#).

If finalised and approved, rates will be detailed in our [Adult Social Care Charging Policy](#) as detailed below.

The draft policy states that the Council will calculate your indicative personal budget, or that of the person you care for, using standard unit rates, taking into account the type of service you, or the person you care for, wish to use. These units will then be tailored to meet the needs and outcomes agreed in your **Care and Support Plan**. This will be paid into your designated **Direct Payments** account provided by the Council's preferred provider, or otherwise, every four weeks. Payments will be net (your personal budget minus your assessed contribution). There are three standard rates:

- An hourly rate for people using agency providers.
- An hourly rate for people employing Personal Assistants.
- An hourly rate for people employing self-employed Personal Assistants.

If the draft policy is approved, these rates will apply to all new **Direct Payment Agreements** from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026. If you, or the person you care for, are already in receipt of a **Direct Payment** you will be transitioned onto these new rates following the next review of your **Care and Support Plan**.

These fixed rates will be reviewed annually and take into account all costs associated with meeting eligible care and support needs, including:

- Changes to the actual average rate of commissioned home care services
- Changes to National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage
- Changes to Employers National Insurance Contributions

There are also two variable rates for day services and those services not covered by the standard rates. Further information on these rates can be found in the [Draft Direct Payment Policy](#).

## Proposed Rates

Please note that these rates are still subject to change following the public consultation and are subject to the annual review process outlined above.

Standard Rate Name	Rate
An hourly rate for people using agency providers.	£21.48
An hourly rate for people employing Personal Assistants.	£15.85
An hourly rate for people employing self-employed Personal Assistants.	£16.76