

Adults' Health and Care

Direct payment newsletter



18 December 2025



Hampshire PA Finder – making PA recruitment easier

Recruiting a Personal Assistant (PA) can sometimes feel overwhelming, even to the most experienced PA employer. Hampshire PA Finder is designed to make this process simple and stress-free. Hampshire PA Finder is an online platform that connects individuals who need support with PAs looking for work, assisting you to build a reliable team quickly and confidently.

How Hampshire PA Finder can support you

Direct Payments provide an individual with choice and control over their care and support, but finding the right PA is sometimes the key to making it work.

Hampshire PA Finder takes the guesswork out of recruitment by offering:

- **Convenience:** Post your vacancy or browse available PAs in your area.
- **Tailored matches:** Use filters for location, availability and skills to find the perfect fit.
- **Confidence:** Access step-by-step guidance on insurance, payroll, the employment status of PAs, conducting interviews safely and much more.

Recent improvements

Thanks to feedback from users, Hampshire PA Finder is now even better:

- **Simplified navigation:** Easier searches and clearer menus.
- **Updated information:** Practical advice for both employers and PAs, covering legal responsibilities, safeguarding and employment rights.

- **Support for employers:** If you're unsure about the process, the Direct Payment Support Service (DPSS) team can guide you through every step; this may involve signposting onto other organisations. You can contact the DPSS team by email DPsupportservice@hants.gov.uk or by calling **0370 779 1300**.

Why this matters for you

Recruiting the right PA isn't just about filling a role, it's about finding someone who understands your support needs and fits your lifestyle. Hampshire PA Finder helps you do this efficiently, reducing stress and saving time.

Top tips for success

- Write a clear, detailed job advertisement on Hampshire PA Finder as this will help to attract the right candidate.
- Be upfront about hours, pay and expectations.
- Use the platform's messaging feature to communicate securely with potential PAs. Please note that records of communication are kept on Hampshire PA Finder, for potential safeguarding purposes, so please bear this in mind when using the messaging function.

Get started today

Visit the [Hampshire PA Finder website](#) to start building your support team with confidence or to find information around the responsibilities of employing a PA.

Arranging a break from caring

Caring for someone can be very demanding. So, it's important to have a break from your caring role to benefit your wellbeing.

Angela (not her real name) used her Take a Break payment to arrange Personal Assistant (PA) support. This enabled her to access health and wellbeing activities in the community, such as physiotherapy and chiropractic sessions.

These sessions helped alleviate the physical strain of caring, reduced long-term health risks and strengthened Angela's ability to continue supporting her family member. This approach demonstrates how Take a Break payments can:

- Deliver practical, preventative benefits
- Promote carer resilience
- Ensure continuity of care.

FIND OUT MORE



Direct Payments Peer Support Group

Everyone is welcome to join our Direct Payments Peer Support Group, whether you are organising your own support or running a Direct Payment for someone else.

Meetings take place online, via Zoom.

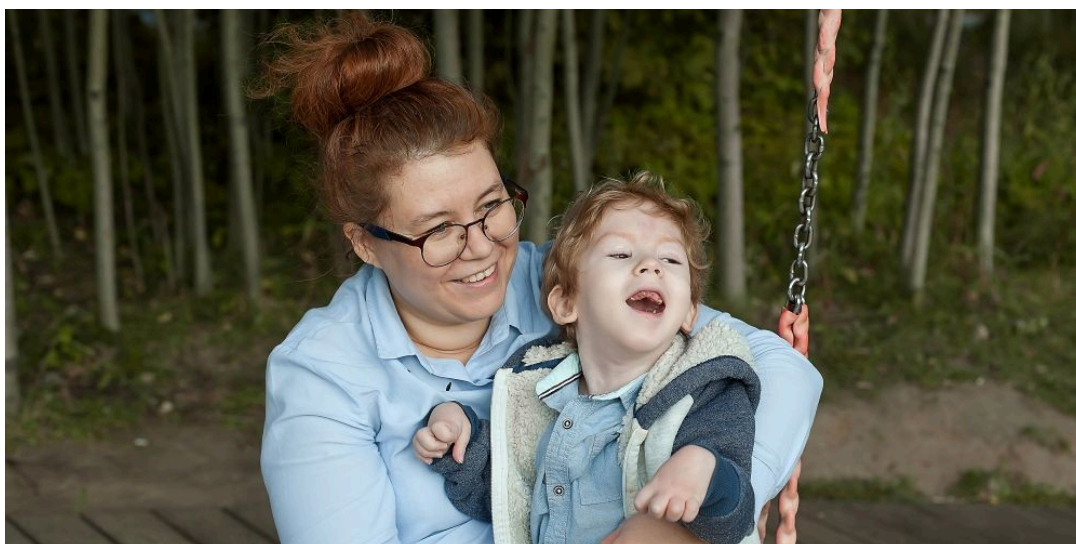
Forthcoming meetings include:

- Wednesday 14 January at 2pm – What should be in my contingency plan?
- Friday 27 February at 2pm – What support can I get and from where?
- Wednesday 8 April at 2pm – How do I prepare for a financial assessment?

Please come along to share your ideas and experiences, or to ask questions.

If you would like to be involved, please email rachel.harrison3@btopenworld.com.

Or join our [Facebook group](#).



Stronger security checks for adults working with children

From January 2026, parents will be able to get Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks when hiring private tutors, carers and therapists, among others. This should give greater peace of mind that the people you let through

your front door will not have a history of abusing vulnerable people. Under the current system, only those working for an organisation, such as a school or hospital, could request this information.

This change was one of Professor Alexis Jay's recommendations from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse: to make greater use of the DBS barred list to save children and vulnerable people from the horrors of abuse. Before this change, self-employed or personal employees could only access Basic DBS checks, which simply show unspent convictions and cautions. Enhanced DBS checks are used for more sensitive roles working with children or vulnerable adults and are the highest-level DBS check available. They include spent and unspent convictions and cautions (subject to filtering rules), any police information considered relevant and proportionate to disclose by a chief officer, and whether the individual has been barred from working with children or adults. Self-employed Personal Assistants are responsible for completing their own checks and must hold an up-to-date DBS certificate for their employer to review. Direct Payment recipients and individual employers of personal assistants **cannot** request a DBS check themselves. This rule applies to anyone using a Direct Payment or paying for their own care and support. Only Hampshire County Council, or an approved umbrella organization, can request a DBS check for a Personal Assistant. There is more information about [DBS checks for personal assistants](#) on the Hampshire PA Finder website.

[READ MORE](#)

Winter flu vaccination

Vaccination remains a key tool in helping reduce the impact of seasonal flu, especially among those most at risk.

The flu vaccine is free from the NHS to the following eligible groups:

- Those aged 65 or over
- Those aged 18 years to under 65 years in clinical risk groups
- Pregnant women
- Those in long-stay residential care homes
- If you are the main carer for an older or disabled person, or receive a carer's allowance
- Close contacts of immunocompromised individuals
- Frontline health or social care workers

Eligible individuals may be invited by their GP, but can also book directly via:

- The National Booking System: [Vaccination and booking services - NHS](#)
- Calling **119**
- The **NHS App**

[MORE ABOUT THE VACCINE](#)

Adult social care Fair Pay Agreement process

consultation

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is seeking the views of individuals and organisations about fair pay agreements in adult social care. This consultation aims to gather views from the sector on how to establish the best way to collectively agree a fair pay agreement.

The outcomes of this consultation will help the DHSC to understand sector views on a range of areas including:

- The Adult Social Care Negotiating Body
- The negotiating process
- Coverage and remit
- Dispute resolution
- Implementation
- Compliance and enforcement

You can find out more about the consultation on the [Government's website](#) or by watching this [ILG Community webinar recording](#).

There is also an Easy Read version of the consultation document and survey: [Plans for fair pay agreements in adult social care \(Easy Read\)](#). The DHSC hopes that the Easy Read document will provide a more accessible route for some people to engage with the consultation process and share their views.

Closing dates for the consultation are:

- Main consultation – 16 January 2025
- Easy Read consultation – 6 March 2026

START THE SURVEY

Have your say on the future of local government across the Hampshire and Solent area

A public consultation has been launched by Central Government on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) across Hampshire and the Solent area. This offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity to help shape how council services are delivered in the future.

Central Government wants to simplify local government structures nationally by replacing the current two-tier system, where responsibilities are split between county councils and district or borough councils, with fewer, new single-tier unitary councils. These new councils would be responsible for all local services in their area, from education and social care to waste collection and planning.

In Hampshire and the Solent area, this change would affect 15 existing councils, including Hampshire County Council, 11 district and borough councils, and the unitary authorities of Southampton, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight.

Following extensive analysis and engagement, Hampshire County Council, in partnership with East Hampshire District Council, submitted a proposal to government earlier this autumn, recommending the creation of four new unitary councils:

- Mid-North unitary authority: Basingstoke and Deane, East Hampshire, Hart, Rushmoor, Winchester
- West unitary authority: Eastleigh, New Forest, Southampton, Test Valley
- South-East unitary authority: Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Portsmouth
- Isle of Wight unitary authority: remaining as a standalone unitary council

Hampshire County Council's proposal is one option presented for consideration in the consultation. Other models by other local authorities in the area include options for five unitary councils.

The Government consultation runs until 11 January 2026.

[Find out more about all the LGR proposals set out within the Government's consultation](#)

A hard copy of the Government's consultation document and the proposals is also available for view at each of the County Council's 40 libraries.

GIVE YOUR FEEDBACK

Hampshire PA Finder website

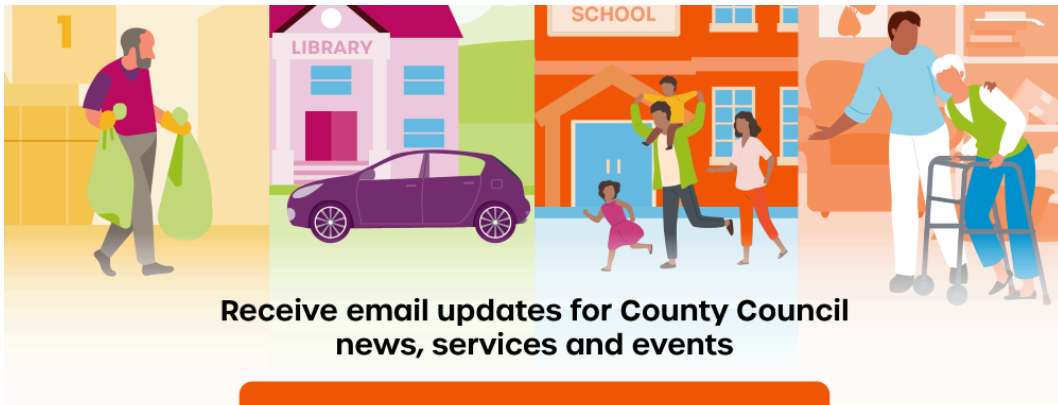
The [Hampshire PA Finder](#) is a free service working to connect people seeking a Personal Assistant in Care with people who are, or want to be, Personal Assistants in Care. You will find lots of useful information on the site about being an employer or being a Personal Assistant in Care.

We'd love to know what you think of the website, so please send your feedback to pafinder@hants.gov.uk.

The Direct Payment Support Service

Our Direct Payment Support Service (DPSS) is available to help Direct Payment recipients, operational staff and providers. The team has three full-time members of staff and can support you with a range of Direct Payment related queries. If you need some advice about Direct Payments, contact the team at DPsupportservice@hants.gov.uk for support.

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