

ACT Now

The newsletter of Age Concern Thurrock

Wishing all our members a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

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Each month in our newsletter we like to focus on a particular topic that we feel is of interest to our members. As we are aware that so many of our readers need to have someone come in to help them with their personal care we thought that this month to begin the New Year we would focus on Direct Payments for Social Care.

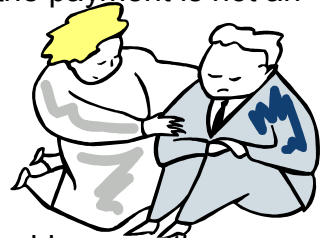
If you are disabled or feel that you are experiencing difficulties in living your life, as you would wish, you may qualify for support from Social Services to help you remain independent.

You may not know that Social Services can offer you money under the Direct Payments Scheme as an alternative to them directly organising assistance for you from home support agencies. You can use the Direct Payments money to pay people to assist you.

Please note that this scheme is not the same as having your pension benefits paid directly into a bank account. Also the Direct Payments, which can only be given by the Social Services, will not affect any benefit you already receive as the payment is not an income.

If you would like to know more about direct Payments and whether you qualify for help to meet your care needs please contact Social Services on 01375 652865.

For more information please ring us on 01375 389872. We can provide you with a helpful booklet to assist you in deciding whether you wish to take this up.



We have a small supply of calendars sponsored by Thurrock Trading Standards. These give very good security information and include some lovely views of Essex. If you wish to call in at the Beehive we would be happy to give you one free of charge. We cannot however post them as the postage costs would be prohibitive.

The Thurrock Independence Resource Centre is able to give help and support to those who decide to use the Direct Payments scheme. For more information call them on 01375 389864

Please call in or telephone us if you need any help or information. If we do not know immediately we will do our best to find out for you.

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