

Case Study Mrs D , Practice Example of Application of Direct Payments

Description of case and situation
<p>Mrs D has advanced Alzheimer's. In the past she has displayed what was described as very aggressive behaviour, requiring four staff to manage her personal care. She was a patient in a psychiatric unit for 20 months and at times it was doubtful if she would be able to return home at any time. However her husband's determination to care for her at home was a major contributing factor to her discharge from hospital.</p> <p>Mrs D is unable to communicate in an understandable way, to most people. She can still display displeasure to others and appear frustrated at times.</p> <p>Mrs D is subject to Section 117 MHA 1983 Aftercare rights. Mr D and his friend have now set up a trust fund to enable Mrs D to have direct payments She is now less resistive, considerably calmer and her personal care can be managed with two carers; however Mr D states that there are still difficulties when it comes to personal care as Mrs D often becomes ridged and uncooperative; she does not like people assisting her with toileting etc. and needs full assistance with all activities of daily living.</p>
Support/Services/Equipment put in place
<p>Mr D manages his wife's care package with his friend via a trust fund to enable them to direct the care and ensure they receive care when needed in a flexible manner. Total package 31.5 hours agency DP per week</p>
Outcomes achieved for the service user and/or family and friends
<p>Mr D use Mrs D's direct payment in the following way. Two carers attend for 45 minutes in the morning to assist to bath or strip wash and dress Mrs D. In the evening they are employed for 30 minutes to ensure she is changed and settled in to bed.</p> <p>Twice a week Mr D has a carer sit with Mrs D for three hours at a time which enables him time to go shopping and attend hospital appointments etc. This also helped when he recently suffered physical health problems and needed to see his GP and attend hospital appointments for investigations.</p> <p>Mrs D does spontaneously smile now and her presentation is of a person who is not distressed and is at ease in her environment.</p> <p>Mr D was frustrated by the lack of flexibility and control which the LA commissioned care arrangements offered and therefore opted to set up a trust fund with a friend of theirs to enable him to manage respite and allow him to attend religious conferences and services.</p> <p>Mr D has a friend in Norfolk that he likes to visit occasionally. He arranged for respite on three separate occasions during the year. He does not want Mrs D to go away for respite as it is too disruptive for her and has a detrimental affect on her well being. The Direct payments enable Mrs D to have a 24 hour carer at home when Mr D is away.</p> <p>This package of support has enabled Mrs D to return home from a long term hospital stay, prevent admission to residential care and enabled her husband to provide her with the best possible care.</p>

