

## Living Well

### Access to Social Care

Revised: 01/12/2014

#### Introduction

Social care and support is provided to individuals by the local authority in which they are resident for a number of reasons including age, disability, poor health, or the personal situation which they find themselves in. Social care can support a person to carry on living where they currently live or can provide them with a temporary or permanent place in which to live if they are no longer able to live independently with support in the community. Personalisation looks at the whole person's life and works to identify their needs.

#### Direct payments

Direct payments aim to give a resident more flexibility in how their services are provided. By giving them money instead of social care services, they have greater choice and control over their life and are able to make their own decisions about how their care is delivered.

The decision to award direct payments takes place after an assessment by social services. This could be:

- A [community care assessment](#) for the person that is being looked after
- An assessment for a child under the Children Act, or
- A [carer's assessment](#)

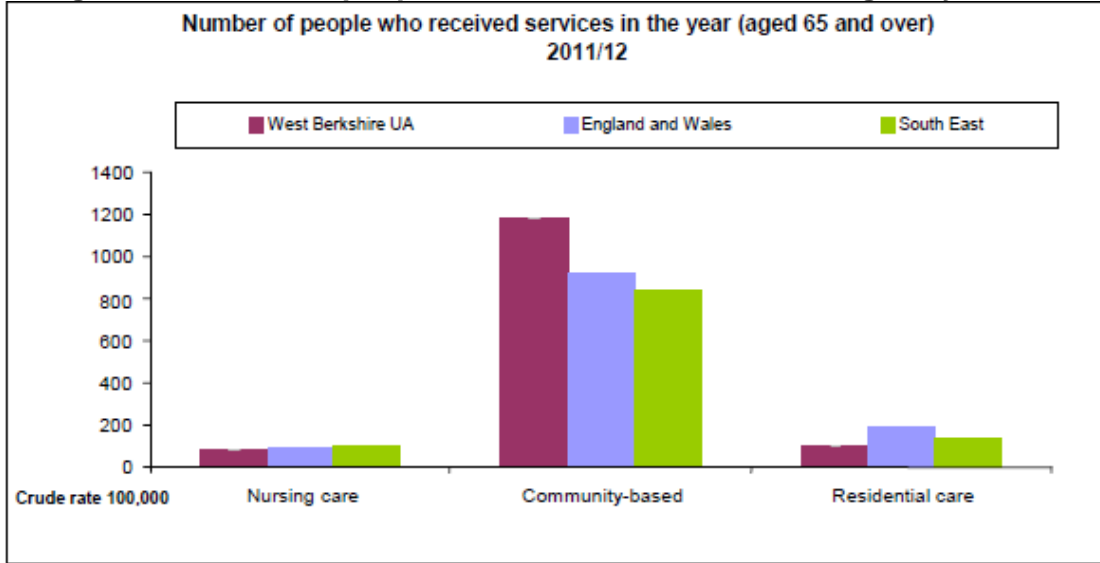
If the outcome of the assessment is that services will be provided, the individual or the carer has a right to ask for direct payments instead of having the service arranged by social services.

#### What do we know?

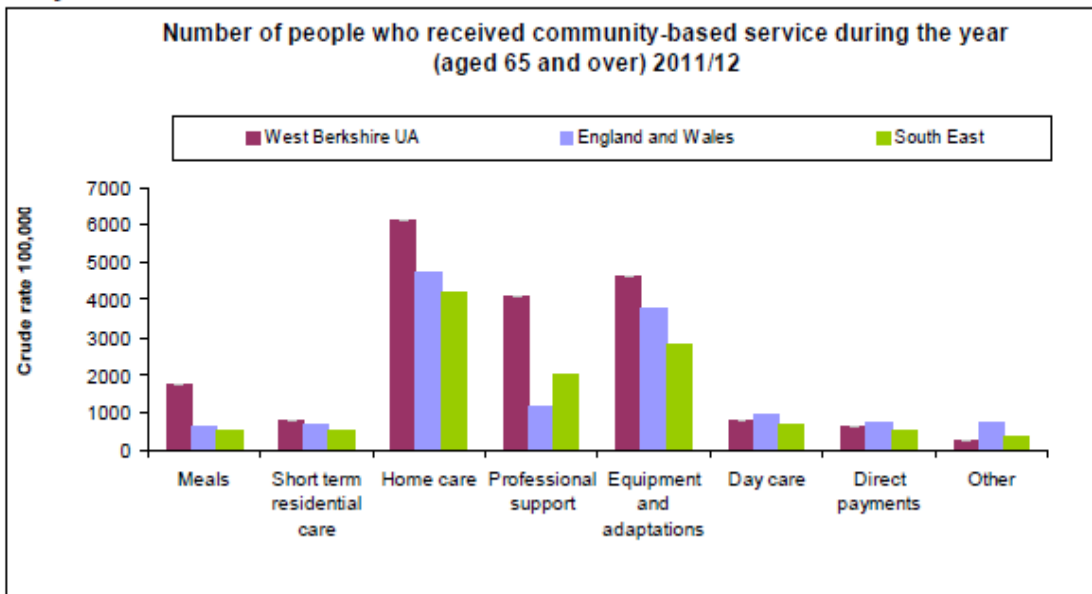
Around 1,200 people per every 100,000 aged 65+ received a community based service in 2011/12. This is a higher rate than the national and regional average. However, the proportion of people aged 65+ in residential or nursing care was lower than the national and regional figures.

The majority of community-based service users aged 65 and over in West Berkshire accessed home care, professional support and equipment and adaptation services in 2011/12. Fewer people used day care services and direct payments than the national average.

**Figure 1: Number of people who received services during the year, 2011/12**



**Figure 2: Number of people who received community-based services during the year 2011/12**



**What is the data telling us?**

The number of people accessing community based social care services and remaining at home is higher than the national and south east averages, which is positive and indicates a more cost effective model exists locally. The higher numbers using professional support and equipment and adaptations fits with this picture of people being cared for at home, instead of requiring nursing or residential care.

**Recommendations for consideration**

The lower number of people receiving direct payments could be investigated to identify reasons and direct payments could be further promoted in order to increase patient choice and satisfaction.

### **Other services and partner organisations**

[Adult Social Care in West Berkshire](#)

### **National and local strategies**

[Care Bill 2013](#)

[Caring for our Future: Reforming care and support](#)

[NHS Direct Payments](#)

### **Other chapters you might be interested in**

Carers

End of Life Care

Independence in Older Age

Mental Health in Old Age: Dementia

If you have any questions about this chapter, please contact Public Health and Wellbeing Team on [publichealthandwellbeing@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:publichealthandwellbeing@westberks.gov.uk) or 01635 503437