

Appendix 4

Activities Unlimited (AU) Prepaid Card

A Prepaid Card (PPC) is like any debit card you currently use for chip and pin transactions, online purchases, and bank transfers. The only difference is that you cannot use them to withdraw money from a cash point or use a cashback facility, you can however transfer the money to your usual bank account and take the money out that way. These cards do not have a credit facility, so they do not allow an individual to go overdrawn.

What are the benefits of having a PPC?

- Eliminates the need to send a spending record and reduces the need to send in receipts
- We do ask you to keep your receipts in case we need clarification of your spend as it may not always be clear from the information we have available.
- Easy monitoring and management of balances
- Online access to view balances, transactions, and to set up regular payments such as direct debits and standing orders
- If your child is over 16 years old, they can have their own card to promote independence (a parent/carer can have a companion card to support the young person to manage their own card – this will not cost you anything)

Why are we using PPCs?

- The Activities Unlimited team are able to monitor how short break offers are being spent more accurately and efficiently
- Supports personalisation and commissioning agendas
- Short break funding can be easily monitored against AU's spending guidelines and outcomes
- Short break offer data readily available for analysis, reporting and market development

Frequently asked questions:

Can I continue with a direct payment/personal allowance in the same way that I have in the past?

Yes, you do not have to accept a PPC to manage your short break award; although it is AU's preferred option for families in receipt of funding

How can I get a PPC?

- You simply need to complete and return the Agreement Form
- A member of staff from AU will phone you to set up your PPC account
- The card will be sent directly to you with instructions on how to activate it and set up your online portal
- We aim to load your funds onto the card within the 14 days