

Disability Related Expenditure

This factsheet explains how we consider Disability Related Expenditure (DRE) as part of your financial assessment.

Disability Related Expenditure is additional money you may need to spend due to your disability or ill-health. We take this expenditure into account in financial assessments to make sure that people who pay towards their care and support have enough money to live on.

This is one of a range of factsheets about care and support in Sheffield (details on page 4).

Introduction

People over the age of 18 who have eligible care and support needs may have to contribute towards the cost of their care and support.

We carry out a financial assessment to work out how much you can afford to contribute towards the cost of your care and support. The amount you have to pay will depend on your financial situation and is called a financially assessed contribution. One of the things we look at is your Disability Related Expenditure.

We never ask you to pay any more money than your financial assessment shows you can afford.

Our factsheet on Paying for your care and support at home explains how we work out how much people contribute towards the cost of their care and support.

Examples of Disability Related Expenditure

When we look at Disability Related Expenditure, we aim to allow for reasonable spending to help you to stay independent. We include

- payment for any community alarm system
- day or night care to meet eligible needs which is not being funded by the Council
- Costs of any specialist items needed, such as
 - specialist washing powders or laundry
 - additional costs of special dietary needs due to illness or disability (we may ask you to let us talk to your doctor about this)
 - additional costs of special clothing or footwear, for example, where this needs to be specially made, or there is additional wear and tear to clothing and footwear caused by your disability
 - additional costs of bedding, for example, because of incontinence
- any heating costs, or metered costs of water, above the average levels for the area and housing type
- reasonable costs of basic garden maintenance, cleaning, or domestic help, where this is necessary because of your disability and not met by the Council
- purchase, maintenance, and repair of disability related equipment, including equipment or transport needed to enter or remain in work. This may include IT costs, where this is necessary because of your disability. Reasonable hire costs of equipment may also be included, if due to waiting for supply of equipment from the Council
- personal assistance costs, including any household or other costs where this is necessary because of your disability and not met by the Council
- transport costs necessary because of your illness or disability. This includes costs of transport to hospital appointments, doctors (GPs) and social activities, over and above the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Personal Independence Payment (PIP) if received and available for these costs. In some cases, it may be reasonable for us not to take account of claimed transport costs – if, for example, a suitable and more cost effective form of transport, e.g. hospital transport, is available but has not been used.

This list is not exhaustive, and we will consider other spending you have little or no choice about in order to remain independent in your own home.

Assessing Disability Related Expenditure

To qualify for Disability Related Expenditure you must be in receipt of the care component of Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payment (Care) or Attendance Allowance.

Your Assessment and Care and Support Plan should also identify disabilities or medical conditions which demonstrate your need for Disability Related Expenditure.

We will assess your Disability Related Expenditure as part of your financial assessment.

We will usually need to see evidence of your spending, like receipts and invoices. If you are not able to provide this evidence at your financial assessment, you will have 28 days to give us this evidence.

If you provide the evidence within the 28 days, we will backdate any reduction in charge due to your DRE to the date of your assessment. If you provide the evidence after 28 days, any reduction will only be made from the date we received your last supporting evidence.

Calculating Disability Related Expenditure

We calculate Disability Related Expenditure based on evidence of your spending, and local information, for example typical heating costs for different types of housing in Sheffield, and local costs of domestic help.

If your Disability Related Expenditure is higher than usual or is of a more unusual nature we will discuss this with you during your financial assessment. We will not recognise expenditure as disability related where free alternatives are available through the NHS, for example for incontinence products or chiropody.

Questioning the Disability Related Expenditure amount

If you don't agree with the DRE amount calculated you can appeal.

You can contact our Financial Assessment and Advice Team to ask them to look at your DRE, explaining why you think the amount is incorrect.

If you are still unhappy with the decision, you can ask our Decision Making Panel to review your case. The Financial Assessment Team will let you know how to contact them. This panel is made up of managers from both financial, social work and legal areas.

If you are not satisfied with the decision of this panel, you can make a complaint.

Tell us what you think

If you have a suggestion, comment or complaint about any council service you can tell us what you think:

- Telephone: (0114) 273 4567.
- Website: www.sheffield.gov.uk/tellus
- Write to: Customer Services, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH.

Where can I get more information?

If you have a question about this factsheet, want a printed copy to be sent to you, or want to speak to someone you can email our **Financial Assessment and Advice Team** at financial.assessments@sheffield.gov.uk or call them on 0114 273 4440 or 0114 273 4613.

Factsheets can be downloaded from our website: www.sheffield.gov.uk/factsheets.

Information can also be provided in alternative formats and other languages on request.

- Prevention and enablement
- Getting care and support
- Help for carers
- Children's Transition to Adult Social Care
- Independent Advocacy
- Planning and organising your care and support
- Help with travel
- Paying for your care and support at home
- Paying for your care and support in a residential or nursing home
- Managing your finances
- Managing your Direct Payment
- Deferred Payments
- Personal Assistant Handbook
- Reviewing your care and support

Contact us

- Email: adultaccess@sheffield.gov.uk
- Telephone: 0114 2734908
- Write to: First Contact, Howden House, Union Street, Sheffield, S1 2SH.

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