

## Paying for care and support: Disability Related Expenditure

This guide explains how we take into account additional costs you may have because of your disability or health condition, as part of your financial assessment.

When the Council arranges your care and support, we carry out a financial assessment to work out how much you'll pay towards the cost.

You can get more information about paying for care and support from the Council website: [www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/social-care/cost-of-care](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/social-care/cost-of-care). For a detailed guide to the financial assessment contact our Social Care Funding Team (details on page 7).

### What is a Disability Related Expenditure?

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.

The rules on this are part of the Government rules on charging for adult social care and support, and the allowances that must be given. The rules are part of the 2014 Care Act, and government related guidance including the [Care and Support \(Charging and Assessment of Resources\) Regulations 2014](#), and the [Care and Support Statutory Guidance](#) (Section 8 Charging and Financial Assessment).

### Who qualifies for Disability Related Expenditure?

To qualify for Disability Related Expenditure you must be receiving:

- Care component of Disability Living Allowance, or
- Care component of Personal Independence Payment, or
- Attendance Allowance.

Your Assessment and Care and Support Plan should also identify a disability or medical condition which demonstrates your need for Disability Related Expenditure.



## **How is my expenditure worked out?**

We work out your expenditure as part of your financial assessment.

There's more information about how we carry out our financial assessment in our guide. For a copy contact the Social Care Funding Team (details on page 7).

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 Disability Related Expenditure 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.

## **What expenditure is included?**

We work out your expenditure following the Government rules, using evidence you provide about 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 expenditure is higher than usual, or 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.

When we look at your expenditure, we aim to allow for reasonable spending to help you to stay independent.

## Examples of Disability Related Expenditure

- Payment for a 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 such as 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.

## Questioning the Disability Related Expenditure amount

If you don't agree with your Disability Related Expenditure amount you can ask us to look at your situation again.

Please contact the Social Care Funding Team (details below) explaining why you think the amount is incorrect.

If you are still unhappy with your expenditure amount, you can ask our Decision-Making Panel to review your case. The Social Care Funding 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.

## Difficulty paying

If you're finding it hard to pay for your care and support, we encourage you to contact us to discuss this, and see what support we can offer. This may avoid us taking legal proceedings against you.

## Contact us

To talk to someone about your finances contact our **Social Care Funding Team**.

**Email:** [funding.team@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:funding.team@sheffield.gov.uk).

**Write to:** Social Care Funding Team, floor 10 Moorfoot Building, Sheffield S1 4PL.

**Call:** (0114) 273 4440. 273 4440. Open Monday to Friday 9 am to 3 pm.

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Sheffield City Council Social Care Funding Team guide to Disability Related Expenditure. This guide was updated in November 2021. Next update is planned for July 2022. Call (0114) 273 5611 or email [information@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:information@sheffield.gov.uk) for the updated guide.

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