

Freedom of Information Request Response

Requester Name	Ian Burnip
Date Requested	27.11.2016
Date Responded	21.12.2016
Name of Request	Care Charging
Reference	161132

Please answer the following questions, or as many as is possible within time & cost parameters starting at #1.

1. How do you calculate the level of contribution that adult social care recipients should make to their care packages?

The Council will complete a financial assessment to determine how much a person should contribute towards the cost of their care package, so they only pay what they can afford towards the cost of care, unless they are exempt, or they choose not to be financially assessed. People who choose not to be financially assessed will be required to pay the maximum charge for their care and support.

The financial assessment will take into account income and capital. Income is taken into account unless it can be disregarded in accordance with the Care Act 2014 regulations. Most benefits are taken into account unless they are disregarded (for example Guaranteed Income Payments made to Veterans under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme; Mobility component of Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments) or partially disregarded (for example War Widows and War Widowers Pensions; Survivors Guaranteed Income Payments from the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme; Savings disregard based on qualifying criteria).

Capital is taken into account; the main examples of capital are assets, such as property and savings. A person with assets above the upper capital limit which is currently £23,250 will need to meet the full cost of their care.

In certain circumstances capital will be disregarded.

Where a person has capital at, or below, the upper capital limit, but more than the lower capital limit which is currently £14,250, they will be charged £1 per week for every £250 in capital between the two amounts (tariff income). Any capital below the lower limit is disregarded.

2. What income are social care recipients allowed to retain, after their contribution to their care package has been deducted?

For people receiving care and support in a residential care home, a person will always be left with a minimum amount of income which is the 'Personal Expenses Allowance', currently £24.90. This figure is set by the government.

For people receiving care and support at home, a person will be left with the minimum level allowed which is at least equivalent to the value of Income Support plus any premiums related to age, disability or family status or the Guaranteed Credit element of Pension Credit plus 25%.

3. What do you allow as Disability Related Expenses? Please provide a copy of your guidance if this is easier.

Where disability related benefits are taken into account as part of the financial assessment, a person will be allowed to keep enough benefit to pay for necessary disability related expenditure to meet needs not met by the authority. A notional level of banded disability related expenditure is applied based on the level of a person's disability benefits. However, the maximum level of banded disability related expenditure can be exceeded where applicable.

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4. Do you use pre-payment cards for care payments? If yes can people opt out of using these?

No

5. Are there any restrictions on what Personal Budgets and Direct Payments can be spent on? Please provide a copy of your guidance on this.

Personal Budgets and Direct Payments can be used to meet the needs identified in the individuals Care and Support Plan.

6. Please provide a copy of the guidance document that your authority uses to make decisions on Direct Payment packages.

Please see attached.

7. Do you have a contingency policy for DP users. If yes please attach a copy.

Please see attached.

8. If a PA is off work sick do you provide extra funding to cover their sick pay – as individual employers can no longer get statutory sick pay reimbursed?

In the first instance the contingency fund will be used to cover Statutory Sick Pay with additional funds being paid if required.

9. "What percentage of Direct Payments rates, that are paid to adults who directly employ their own PAs, are allowed to be spent on the following additional expenses?"

The percentage will differ for each individual so specific detail has been provided for each aspect listed.

• National insurance employer contributions	These are paid separately as required.
• Statutory paid holidays	10.69% of the hourly rate paid to the Personal Assistants.
• Payroll charges	Paid as a separate amount.
• Independent living insurance	Employers Liability Insurance is paid as a separate amount.
• Advertising	Paid as a separate amount as required.
• National Minimum Wage increase from April 2016	Considered as part of an annual uplift.
• Redundancy payments	Paid as a separate amount as required.
• Pensions	Paid as a separate amount as required.
• Training	Paid as a separate amount as required.
• Contingency funding	5.42% of the hourly rate paid to the Personal Assistants.

Our Direct Payments are paid in advance so the above can either be requested or dealt with as part of the audit process.