



Carers Cash Grants – Information for Carers

A Carers Cash Grant may be given to you as a carer following a **carer support needs assessment** to support you in your caring role and to enable you to maintain your own health and well being. The assessment is completed jointly by a carer and a member of Trust staff.

In order to be eligible for this payment you need to be providing regular and substantial care to someone who is ill, frail or has a disability. If there is a greater demand for this grant than funding available, the following criteria will be used to prioritise provision.

- Carers whose emotional or physical health is at risk.
- A caring situation that is at risk of breaking down.
- Carers whose health and well-being would benefit from a grant (for a carers break for example) and who are unable to finance this without assistance.

How often can I apply?

- Due to restrictions in funding you can apply every other year (financial year runs from April – March).

What kind of service can I have a grant for?

Services for carers are not defined. You will have the opportunity to identify what kind of support would be valuable for you as a carer. Some examples of possible support are: a grant towards a carer's break, aromatherapy sessions or a grant to attend a training course.

What is involved in applying for a carer's grant?

1. A member of staff will complete a form with you requesting a cash grant for you as carer.
2. You will be asked to provide an estimate of the costs involved to be submitted with your request.
3. You will be informed whether or not the carer's cash grant has been approved. The grant may form part or all of the costs requested.
4. If granted, you will receive a payment by Cheque or into your bank account for the amount approved. (N.B. Payment by BACS is only available if you have been paid by this method before).
5. As soon as you have used this payment, it is **your responsibility as carer to provide the Trust with relevant receipts** for audit purposes.
6. Payments should be used within a reasonable period.

It is essential that you wait for confirmation of the amount approved before making arrangements or purchases.

If you would like any other information on carer support or events in the Trust, you can contact a member of Trust staff or the Trust's Carer Support Co-ordinator:

*Carer Support Team
CSD, 2 Coleshill Road
Enniskillen BT74 7HG*

Tel: (028) 6634 4163 or (028) 7135 5023

Email: Carers.Support1@westerntrust.hscni.net