

Disability Related Expenditure Fact Sheet

What is disability related expenditure?

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

Public Consultation Proposal

As part of the re-design of the Co-Funding Policy the Council will be reviewing the Disability Related Expenditure (DRE) procedure. For all three proposal options to be consulted on the Council's is also proposing an automatic standard disability related expenditure disregard of £20 which will apply to everyone irrespective of what benefits you may be in receipt of .

The Council recognise many people already in receipt of community support are likely to be financially affected by the proposals. The consultation of the disability related expenditure procedure also recognises that people with the most severe disabilities are not in the position to supplement benefit income with earnings and therefore entitled to a higher level of disregard. This disregard must be minded of the additional expenses people occur due to the level of their disability.

The Council proposes in circumstances where people feel they have disability related expenditure above the standard £20 disregard the person will be able to request an individual disability related expenditure assessment. This is where people can tell us about their additional expenses which may reduce the amount they have to pay. In these circumstances the Council will require a breakdown and evidence of the disability related expenditure which is usually in the form of receipts and invoices.

In determining disability related expenditure, the Council will have regard to the Government's Care and Support Statutory Guidance and any relevant reports/guidance from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman.

What is considered disability related expenditure?

Below is a list of some the areas that will be considered but please note this is not an exhaustive and the Council will consider other spending you have if associated to your disability or medical condition/ill-health:

- Extra heating costs above the average levels for the area and housing type
- Community alarm system
- Special dietary needs
- Reasonable costs of basic garden maintenance, cleaning, or domestic help, where this is necessary because of your disability and not met by the Council
- Additional costs of bedding, for example, because of incontinence
- Extra laundry costs
- Incontinence aids
- Privately arranged care services where this is necessary because of your disability and not met by the Council
- Prescription Charges
- Chiropody
- Transport costs, only costs over and above the mobility component of disability related expenditure or Personal Independence Payment where one of these is in payment. This does not include alternatives to hospital transport for appointments.
- 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
- Purchase, hire, 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
- Court of Protection Deputyship costs
- Personal assistance costs, including any household or other costs where this is necessary because of your disability and not met by the Council

The Council will ensure you are aware of the disability related procedure and how you are able to request an individual assessment.

Additional costs

- The lowest cost alternative should usually be utilised for example NHS prescription prepayment, Severn Trent's 'WaterSure Scheme'.
- In deciding if a cost can be allowed in your financial assessment the Council will consider what is included in your agreed care and support plan, although allowable costs are not restricted to what is stated in the support plan
- To be included as disability related expense the cost must be higher than normal household living expenses. It is the additional cost above normal household costs that can be considered as additional expense. For example, you may have more laundry than someone without a disability would have, say 5 loads per week per person rather than just 2. The costs of the additional 3 loads could be considered as a disability related expense
- All allowable costs will be divided by the number of adults living in your household who receive a benefit from the purchased item or service. Exceptional circumstances will be considered on their merits

Outcome of disability related expenditure assessment

If you do not agree with the outcome of your disability related expenditure you can ask us to look at your situation again.