



Disability Related Expenditure

It is important that everyone who is financially assessed by the council to pay towards their care support can have any extra costs related to their disability considered as an allowance to potentially reduce their charge. This is known as “Disability Related Expenditure”.

Disability Related Expenditure is accepted by the council if it can be seen to meet a person’s care needs and can be evidenced by receipts.

Working out how much a person is required to pay towards their care support costs is reviewed periodically by the council’s Financial Assessment & Charging Team (tel: 01983 823340). You should let the council know if you have any extra costs that are related to your disability at that time.

The table on the next page is a list of disability related expenditure that the council should consider. The list does not include everything, so you should contact the council’s Financial Assessment & Charging Team (tel: 01983 823340) if you feel there are any other costs that should be considered.

What can you do if you are not happy with your financial assessment?

- You can challenge the council if you don’t agree with a financial contribution assessment calculation.
- You **must** be involved in the financial contribution assessment; the council should ask you to provide information about your income, such as any benefits you receive and any ‘disability related expenditure’ (items and services you pay for that are ‘directly related’ to your disability).

The care and support plan may be a good starting point for considering what is necessary disability-related expenditure. However, flexibility is needed. What is disability-related expenditure should not be limited to what is necessary for care and support. For example, above average heating costs should be considered.

Disability Related Expenditure:

Costs of any privately arranged care services required.	Respite care.
Costs of any specialist items needed to meet the person's disability needs, for example:	
Day or night care which is not being arranged by the local authority.	Additional costs of bedding, for example, because of incontinence.
Specialist washing powders or laundry.	Internet access for example for blind and partially sighted people.
Additional costs of special dietary needs due to illness or disability (the person may be asked for permission to approach their GP in cases of doubt).	Reasonable costs of basic garden maintenance, cleaning, or domestic help, if necessitated by the individual's disability and not met by social services.
Personal assistance costs, including any household or other necessary costs arising for the person.	Any heating costs, or metered costs of water, above the average levels for the area and housing type, occasioned by age, medical condition or disability.
Special clothing or footwear, for example, where this needs to be specially made; or additional wear and tear to clothing and footwear caused by disability.	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 necessitated by the disability; reasonable hire costs of equipment may be included, if due to waiting for supply of equipment from the local council.
Other transport costs necessitated by illness or disability, including costs of transport to day centres, over and above the mobility component of DLA or PIP, if in payment and available for these costs. In some cases, it may be reasonable for a council not to take account of claimed transport costs – if, for example, a suitable, cheaper form of transport, e.g. council-provided transport to day centres is available but has not been used.	
In other cases, it may be reasonable for a council not to allow for items where a reasonable alternative is available at lesser cost. For example, a council might adopt a policy not to allow for the private purchase cost of continence pads, where these are available from the NHS.	

