

Disability related expenditure (DRE)

What is disability related expenditure?

Disability related expenditure is money that you spend specifically relating to your disability or frailty.

Disability related expenditure is money that we may consider as not available when we carry out a financial assessment to determine how much you can afford to contribute towards your care.

In accordance with the Care Act 2014, annex C paragraph 39 Croydon does take disability related benefits into account when calculating your assessed charge. We do therefore consider full disability related expenditure within your financial assessment based on your personal circumstances.

This guidance includes examples of possible disability-related expenditure, but it is not a comprehensive list. Other items can be included if they are related to the person receiving the social care and is as a result of their disability or frailty.

Thinking about the extra expenses you incur because of your impairment

Financial assessment officers have national guidance which helps identify the most common disability related expenses and amounts of money that can be considered. This guidance is not a definitive list. If you have other expenses that are incurred because of your disability or frailty, you should tell the financial assessment officer about them.

Remember:

- You need to tell us about your disability related expenses
- You need to tell us how much these cost
- You need to gather receipts / evidence of these expenses

When we consider your disability related expenditure

- We will look at the information you gave us including the receipts and evidence you have provided
- We will check to see if the expenses you have submitted relate to your care needs detailed by your care manager in your support plan
- We will check to see if any income you receive already covers these expenses. For example, a telecare system / community alarm is paid within housing benefit / supporting people funds if you live in special sheltered housing.
- The Councils disability related expenditure policy is written in accordance with the good practice guide issued by the National Association of Financial Assessment Officers.

Identifying if you have disability related expenditure

A financial assessment officer, your care manager, a friend, or other representative can help you identify any disability related expenditure items.

Here are some questions you should consider;

- Do you pay for privately arranged care, not provided by the council?
- Do you have to buy special foods due to your disability or frailty?
- Do you need to pay for help with property maintenance that people would normally be able to do themselves?
- Have you purchased special items or clothing or equipment because of your disability or frailty?

Below are some common reasons why people tell us about disability related expenditure;

- Some people incur extra expenditure because they are incontinent. For example, additional costs due to doing extra washing etc.
- Some people are frail and need more heat for longer durations. Therefore, we can consider higher than average heating bills.
- Some people need help with odd jobs around the house because they are unable to carry out the tasks themselves and there is nobody that lives with them that can help. This could simply be costs related to cutting the grass.
- Some people may have purchased special equipment. For example, a hoist to help you in and out of bed.
- Travel expenses (over and above the mobility allowance) is another form of disability related expenditure that some people incur because they are unable to get around themselves.

To help you think about what disability related expenditures you incur, it might be easier to think about them in different ways:

1. **Looking after your home:** if you need help to maintain your home and must pay extra costs for this service such as extra cost of fuel due to your disability.
2. **Looking after yourself:** if you need help to look after yourself and must pay extra costs for personal needs such as laundry due to incontinence.
3. **Transport and travel needs:** if you must pay extra for your transport needs (over and above your mobility benefit).

Remember: This list is not definitive; it is merely a prompt to help you think about what expenses you incur. If there are other essential items or costs that you incur, then you should tell us about these. You should tell us about any items you purchase or maintain to assist you in your daily activities which cost more because of your impairment.

DRE receipts / evidence policy

To help us accurately apply extra allowances due to disability or frailty related expenditure we do ask that clients submit receipts / evidence of the additional

expenses incurred. The Financial Assessment Officer will guide you as the number of receipts required will vary depending on the nature of the expenditure.

We realise that for people who are new to the Financial Assessment process submission of receipts can be difficult if you have not retained them in the past. Because of this we can offer new clients a financial assessment that gives a provisional contribution due to clients not having receipts available. The provisional contribution must be paid until receipts have been submitted within an agreed time frame. Once the receipts have been submitted, the provisional assessment will be recalculated and formalised. Any change in the calculation following the submission of receipts / evidence will be backdated to the initial invoicing period the issue was raised.

Personal Budgets and Support Plans

Financial Assessment Officers will consider the content of client's support plan to ensure money is not double accounted for. Where a client's need is met through outcomes identified in the support plan and consequently through the personal budget, such items can not be considered as disability related expenditure. Financial Assessment Officers will work with your allocated Care Manager to help ensure disability related expenditure applied to your financial assessment is accurate and relevant.

Review and Appeals

If you are not happy with the outcome of your financial assessment, you can ask us to look at it again through our review and appeals procedure. For further information about this process or general queries relating to the financial assessment process please call the Charging Helpline on 020 8760 5676 or email socialservices.SSFAT@Croydon.gov.uk