

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 000844
Date 3 February 2017

Care Charging

Request:

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

In response to question 1 above, I can confirm that City of Wolverhampton Council holds this information. The information you have requested is exempt under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), because the information is accessible to you, as it is already in the public domain. The Council currently has a Banded Contributions scheme for non-residential care packages with a full financial assessment available upon request as per the care and support statutory guidance on non-residential charging. Residential contributions are calculated as per the care and support statutory guidance on residential charging. Please see link supplied below:
<http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/article/3618/Non-residential-contributions>

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

Non-residential care - various amounts with a minimum as required under the care and support statutory guidance.

Residential care - various amounts but with the statutory Personal Expenses Allowance as a minimum.

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

Any reasonable cost (with evidence) associated with a person's disability-related needs.

4. Do you use pre-payment cards for care payments?

Customers have a pre-paid card account for receiving Direct Payments.

If yes can people opt out of using these?

A Direct Payment may also be paid via a Third Party Supported Account. 'Individual Service Funds' are also currently being piloted.

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.
No, as long as it is identified in the Support Plan to meet their assessed eligible needs and is consistent with the Care Act 2014 guidance as set out in section 10 through to 12 of Care and Support Statutory Guidance which described how "eligible needs" can be met. Please see link supplied below:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-statutory-guidance/care-and-support-statutory-guidance#person-centred-care-and-support-planning>
6. Please provide a copy of the guidance document that your authority uses to make decisions on Direct Payment packages.
I can confirm that City of Wolverhampton Council holds this information. The information you have requested is exempt under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), because the information is accessible to you, as it is already in the public domain. Our Council Tax Division update this regularly. Please see link supplied below:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-statutory-guidance/care-and-support-statutory-guidance#Chapter12>
7. Do you have a contingency policy for DP users. If yes please attach a copy.
No separate policy.
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?
Yes.
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?"
No set percentages.
- National insurance employer contributions
Support organisation factors in these costs when helping the customer with the setting-up of a Direct Payment.
 - Statutory paid holidays
Support organisation factors in these costs when helping the customer with the setting-up of a Direct Payment.
 - Payroll charges
Actual cost paid in addition to Direct Payment
 - Independent living insurance
First year of insurance up to a value of £84 paid in addition to Direct Payment; subsequent insurance premiums factored in by Support organisation.
 - Advertising
Actual cost paid in addition to Direct Payment.

- National Minimum Wage increase from April 2016
Support organisation factors in these costs when helping the customer with the setting-up of a Direct Payment.
- Redundancy payments
Actual cost paid in addition to Direct Payment where not covered by insurance.
- Pensions
Support organisation factors in these costs when helping the customer with the setting-up of a Direct Payment where roll-out has occurred.
- Training
Actual cost paid in addition to Direct Payment.
- Contingency funding
Support organisation factors in these costs when helping the customer with the setting-up of a Direct Payment.