

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 002087
Date 16 March 2018

Domiciliary Care

Request:

I am writing to make an open Government request for the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please respond to the following questions:

- Has the local authority increased service user contribution rates for domiciliary care visits for the financial years; 2017/2018, 2016/2017 or 2015/2016 above inflation (please provide information for each year respectively)? If so, how much have they increased by (per hour)?
Contributions are determined by a financial assessment under the Care Act 2014 according to individuals' resources and are not based on the number of hours of care and support received.
In 2015/16 and 2016/17 and 2017/18 – a Banded Contribution Scheme (light-touch assessment) was in operation with the option of a full financial assessment under the Care Act according to individual circumstances, including disability-related expenditure:

| BAND | GETTING A MEANS-TESTED BENEFIT | WEEKLY CONTRIBUTION |
|---|---|---------------------|
| A | You (or your partner) receive a means-tested benefit* and you do not receive Attendance Allowance** | No Contribution |
| B/C | You (or your partner) receive a means-tested benefit* and <u>you</u> receive Attendance Allowance** | £8.08 |
| D/E | You (or your partner) receive a means-tested benefit* and <u>you</u> receive Attendance Allowance** and an additional amount or premium for severe disability is paid for you | £65.61 |
| NOT GETTING A MEANS-TESTED BENEFIT | | |
| F | You (or your partner) do not receive a means-tested benefit* and <u>you</u> do <u>not</u> receive Attendance Allowance** | £55.40 |
| G/H | You (or your partner) do not receive a means-tested benefit* and <u>you</u> receive Attendance | £75.84 |

| | | |
|----------|--|------------------|
| | Allowance ** | |
| | AMOUNT FOR THOSE WITH MORE THAN £23,250 | |
| J | Any income | Full Cost |

* The means-tested benefits are Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit) but not Pension Credit (Savings Credit), Income Support, Income-related Employment & Support Allowance (ESA) (but not Contributory ESA), Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (but not contribution-based JSA) and/or Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Reduction.

** Attendance Allowance or an equivalent rate of the Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment.

2. Has the local authority introduced /increased social care service user charges for transport for any of the following for the financial years; 2017/2018, 2016/2017 or 2015/2016 (please provide information for each financial year respectively)? If so, how much is the charge/ increase?
- For transport to medical appointments
 - To/from a day centre
 - To/from respite facility
 - To access facilities in the community which are included in a person's care plan
 - To get to work (where a person receives support in their care plan from a care worker)

With regard to "social care transport charges" – we do not make a separate charge for transport when it is included as part of an individuals' assessed eligible needs.

3. Has the local authority introduced/increased an upfront arrangement care charge for self-funders for the years; 2017/2018, 2016/2017 or 2015/2016 (please provide information for each financial year respectively)? If so, how much are they/how much have they increased by?

For all years stated the up-front arrangement fee for self-funders of non-residential care only was £150.

4. Has the local authority introduced/increased an on-going charge for arrangements with self-funders for the financial years; 2017/2018, 2016/2017 or 2015/2016 (please provide information for each financial year respectively)? If so, how much are they/how much have they increased by?

For all years stated there was no on-going arrangements charge for self-funders of non-residential care.

5. Have you introduced a set/assumptive rate for Disability Related Expenditure for the financial year 2017/2018, or in the two previous financial years (please provide information for each year respectively)? If so, please clarify what this rate is.

No, actual DRE was taken into account for full financial assessments in these years.

6. Do you include the higher rate of PIP in charging for the financial years; 2017/2018, 2016/2017 or 2015/2016 (please provide information for each year respectively)? If so, is this a new inclusion?

In the banded contribution scheme, there was no difference between the charge for those in receipt of the standard or enhanced PIP daily living. Where a full

assessment was undertaken, the difference between the standard and enhanced daily living component of PIP was only taken into account for those individuals receiving night-time care and support.

7. Have you introduced/increased charges for respite/breaks for care users for the financial years; 2017/2018, 2016/2017 or 2015/2016 (please provide information for each year respectively)? If so how much is this charge/increase (in %)?

Respite care in a care home – nightly rate up to seven nights (based on basic benefit rates):

| | Aged 60+ | Aged under 60 |
|---------|----------|---------------|
| 2015/16 | £18.04 | £11.49 |
| 2016/17 | £18.67 | £11.49 |
| 2017/18 | £19.21 | £11.54 |

A full residential care financial assessment in accordance with the Care Act 2014 is undertaken for respite care stays of seven nights or more.

8. Have you introduced/increased charges for any of the following during the financial years: 2017/2018, 2016/2017, or 2015/2016 (please provide information for each financial year respectively)?

- Laundry service
- Cleaning service
- Gardening services
- Handyman services
- Telecare

A new Telecare offer was introduced on 1st April 2016 with an accompanying charging structure of four levels (£3, £5, £7, £9 per week based on level of service received).

This structure has remained at the same pricing since its introduction.

All existing users of the previous Carelink service have remained at the same charging level (£3.28 per week).

- Food shopping
- Meals on wheels

| Year | Legacy Meal | Legacy Afternoon Tea | New Client Meal | New Client Afternoon Tea |
|-----------|-------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 2015/2016 | £3.50 | £2.05 | £4.35 | £2.20 |
| 2016/2017 | £3.50 | £2.30 | £4.45 | £2.30 |
| 2017/2018 | £3.55 | £2.50 | £4.55 | £2.50 |

9. Are you aware of any restrictions on care users as being able to access the 12-week property disregard for residential care as result of local authority policy changes? **No**