Leicestershire County Council

Paying For Your Care at Home or in the Community – Fact Sheet

If you receive care services from the Council you will probably have to make a contribution towards the cost. We work out how much you will be required to pay by carrying out a financial assessment. The amount that you need to pay will be due from the start of the services even if the financial assessment is completed at a later date.

In some cases you may receive the reablement service which can be provided free of charge for a period of **up to** 6 weeks. However, in most cases the period of reablement will be less than 6 weeks. Usually we will try to get a financial assessment completed during this time so that you will know how much you will need to pay if services continue after the reablement period.

The Financial Assessment

There are two stages to the financial assessment – stage one looks at your capital only, and stage two looks at your capital and income.

Financial assessment - stage 1

You do not have to complete a financial assessment if you do not want to, but if you make this choice you will have to pay the full charge for your services as well as an administration fee (see below). If you change your mind at a later date and complete an assessment the amended assessment will apply from when we receive the completed form.

We need to check whether you have savings, capital or assets over the government limit of £23,250. This includes such things as money in the bank, investments, and any property that you are not living in. The value of the home you are living in is not taken into account.

If you do have capital over the £23,250 limit you will need to pay the full charge for the services that you receive as well as an administration fee (see below).

Administration fee – if you have capital over £23,250, or if you choose not to complete a financial assessment, you will also be charged a fee for the Council arranging your care, monitoring it, and the ongoing work required to process any payments and invoices. Currently the fee is £236 per year and is applied on a weekly basis for as long as you have a package of care from the Council.

If you do not want to pay this administration fee then you should arrange your own care privately.

Financial assessment – stage 2

If your capital is less than the government limit of £23,250 you will need to complete a financial assessment form. From the information you provide we will work out your maximum weekly charge.

We will ask you for details about your income, your capital, and some expenses. The quicker you can return the completed form the quicker we can work out your maximum weekly charge.

The amount you will actually pay

- If the cost of your care is less than your maximum weekly charge, you will pay the full cost of your care
- If the cost of your care is more than your maximum weekly charge, you will only pay your maximum weekly charge
- You will be told the cost of your care by your allocated worker when your support plan is agreed

Billing and direct payments

- Bills, and direct payments made to you, are for set 4 week periods and are sent in advance
- Bills are based on the amount of care on your support plan
- If you have no services for a complete day you should phone us on **0116 305 8172** to inform us, and we will record this so that an adjustment will be applied to a future bill. Please note that this may not be seen on the next bill that you receive.

How we will collect your contribution

- If you are given a direct payment, the amount you need to pay will be deducted before the direct payment is made
- You must, on a regular basis, pay your contribution into the same account that the Council's direct payment is made
- If you receive services that are managed by the Council you will be sent a bill every 4 weeks unless your bill would be less than £35. If this is the case, a bill will be sent when this amount is reached
- If your support plan includes both a direct payment and services managed by the Council, we will deduct any contribution you need to make from the direct payment first. In some cases a bill will need to be sent as well as the direct payment being reduced to nil – this is when the amount you need to pay is more than the direct payment