

Have Your Say: Proposed Changes to Leicester City Council's financial assessment - For adults who live at home and are eligible for help from Adult Social Care

This information sheet is for adults who live at home and are eligible for help from the council due to their care needs. It explains some changes the council is thinking of making to the financial assessment. Everyone who is eligible for Adult Social Care has a financial assessment. This works out if people have to pay towards the cost of care and if so how much. The rules on this are in the council's Fairer Charging Policy. You can find this on the council's website www.leicester.gov.uk

The financial assessment looks at the money people have coming in, as well as their expenses. Some people have extra expenses because they are disabled and the council takes this into account in the assessment. These expenses are called Disability Related Expenditure.

The council is consulting on changes to how much is allowed for Disability Related Expenditure each week, and the type of expenses that are allowed.

What could happen if change was agreed?

- Many people would not be affected at all because their income is too low
- Some people could start paying towards their care for the first time.

People who already pay towards their care may see an increase in the **amount they pay towards their care.**

What is the council proposing to change?

The council proposes to change the amount of money it allows for disability related expenses in the financial assessment by:

1. Reducing the set amount allowed for disability related expenditure to a minimum of £10 per week per person. (At the moment this is a minimum of £20 per week for a single person and a minimum of £15 per week for one of a couple).
2. Changing the list of expenses that count as disability related expenditure.

We want to hear what you think about the proposed changes which are out for public consultation.

The City Mayor and his Executive Team will consider the findings from the consultation before making a decision on whether to introduce this change.

If you have any questions about the consultation or need this information sheet in a different language or format, please call **(0116) 454 4400**.

Why does the council think change is needed?

The council needs to make sure it spends money wisely and fairly. Money comes from the government and from the council tax paid by people who live in the City. The council has been getting less money from the government because of cuts.

Staff have been looking at how disability related expenditure is worked out, to make sure that this is as fair as possible.

Being fair is about making sure people with disability related expenditure have a reasonable amount of money allowed for this. Allowing the right amount of money helps the council to spend its money wisely, so that as many people as possible can get help.

More about the proposals

At the moment, the council allows a minimum of £20 a week towards disability related expenses if you are single and a minimum of £15 a week if you are one of a couple. The council thinks it would be fairer to change the amounts to a minimum of £10 per week for each person whether they are single or part of a couple.

The council wants to make sure that the amounts allowed are closer to what people actually spend because of their disability. In Leicester we know this is £7.50 per week on average. There are some people that spend more than £10 per week due to a disability. If people can show the council that they spend more than this, a higher amount would be allowed.

The council has a list of expenses that are allowed in the calculation. The list of items has been in place for some time and needs a review. Some of the items are already provided free by the NHS, and some are included as part of the support package for Adult Social Care. The council does not think it should allow these items to be counted.

How could you be affected?

If change was agreed after the consultation, some people would see an increase in the weekly amount they would have to pay towards the cost of their care in the future:

- 47% of people are likely not to see any change at all. They will either pay nothing as they do now, or pay the same amount each week.
- 31% could see an increase of up to £7.49 per week
- 22% could see an increase of between £7.50 and £10 per week.
- The highest increase with regard to Disability Related Expenditure anyone would have to pay is £10 per week (£5 per week if you are one of a couple.)

How soon could the changes be introduced?

The City Mayor and his Executive Team will consider the responses to the consultation after it has finished.

If they decide to introduce the changes, we aim to let you know in late spring 2016.

People whose charges change, could pay their revised amount shortly afterwards in late Spring 2016.

Need more information?

Need this leaflet in another language or format?

Please call our helpline on
(0116) 454 4400