

Disability Related Expenditure

Information for service users



What is disability related expenditure?

Disability related expenditure is the cost of any item, service or adjustment reasonably needed for you to live independently, where this need is not met within your care and support plan.

These are the extra costs you incur due to your disability or long-term health condition, and these costs are not met through any other source, and have to be paid for by you.

Why does the Council need to know this?

The Council takes disability income into account when completing your financial assessment, so it must ensure you keep enough benefit to meet any disability-related needs not met through your care and support plan.

If you are financially assessed to be able to pay towards your care, these costs when agreed will reduce what you will need to pay.

What qualifies as disability related expenditure?

This list is not exhaustive and represents more typical examples of what may qualify as disability related expenditure.

- extra washing or special washing powder/conditioner for delicate skin
- community alarms (pendant or wrist)
- special diet
- special clothing or footwear (or extra wear and tear)
- additional bedding
- extra heating costs
- gardening

- any cleaning (if not part of your care and support plan)
- basic internet access
- any identified care need that Adult Social Care does not meet
- buying and maintaining disability-related equipment
- any transport costs (both for essential visits to the doctor or hospital, but also to keep up social contacts), where these costs are not covered by the mobility component of their benefit.

It could be helpful if you think about your regular costs and how these are different from someone without a disability or health condition. You could look back over your expenditure to see what you have spent money on to see what may qualify.

It is important to not think just in the short-term because disability related expenditure that may qualify may be a less frequent cost. For example, if a person uses a wheelchair, they are likely to have an annual insurance policy, and this may be easy to overlook.

Do I need to keep receipts of this expenditure?

Yes, because where a cost is allowed in your financial assessment the Council may ask for proof these costs are being paid.

Can an item of disability related expenditure be declined?

Yes, if your social care assessor does not consider it necessary or if the item can be provided free, for example by the NHS.

It is also possible the full cost of an item is not allowed, for example when a cheaper alternative item or service can satisfactorily meet your disability or long-term health condition

Where can I get more information?

You can contact the Council's Financial Assessment team on 0207 641 2820 or by email at finassessment@westminster.gov.uk

You can also read the governments statutory guidance on disability related expenditure [here](#)