

This shows how we calculate charges for non-residential care services including revised rates from 10th April 2017. The Council charges for most care services within statutory guidance. The amount you pay usually depends upon your financial position and you will be asked to complete and sign a financial statement giving full details of your savings, property, income and expenditure. Most services are provided by private agencies where fees may vary but where a council service is used the maximum charge is shown below.

Charges will usually apply from the start date of the care service. You can choose not to have a financial assessment but you will be required to pay the full cost or maximum charge from the start date of the service.

General information

The services included in the financial assessment described here are:

- Home Care
- Intermediate or Reablement after 6 weeks
- Day Care
- Direct Payments
- Personal Budgets
- Community Support/Outreach services
- Money Management
- Adaptations over £1,000
- Adult Placement Support
- Supported Accommodation support

(Charges for residential care homes are different)

Services excluded from any charges are:

- Daily Living Equipment
- Adaptations under £1000
- After Care services provided under Section 117 of the Mental Health Act
- Intermediate Care Services for up to 6 weeks

Welfare benefits check

The Council and the DWP (Pension/Benefits Service) will work together to determine your financial position and ensure you are receiving all benefits that you may be entitled to. Any extra income must be notified as it may affect the charge from the date received.

Full Cost / Maximum Charge

People with savings and capital over £23,250 will pay the full cost of their care services and this is charged from the start date of the service.

Where a self-funding person chooses to use the Council to contract a care service on their behalf the council will make a charge of £260 for the initial set-up fee and then £80 per year thereafter.

- Home Care Agency charges vary but usually start from £17.53 per hour
- Council run home care is charged at £23.00 per hour for each carer
- Council run day care is charged at £36.00 per day
- Transport – If funded by the council has a fixed charge of £3.70 per return journey
- Meals provided at a Day Centre have a fixed charge of £4.50 per meal.

People with less than £23,250 and who have income of less than £189 per week (£145 per week for one of a couple) will not usually have to pay (except for the fixed charges for meals and transport)

Financial assessment

Property: The value of your main residence will not be taken into account, but if you own or have a share in any other property the value will usually be counted toward your total savings and investments.

Savings: If your capital/savings are under £23,250 but over £14,250, they are calculated as income at the rate of £1 per week for every £250 (or part). The result of this calculation will be added to your total weekly income.

Capital held in a personal injury trust or held in the Court of Protection is disregarded.

Income: Almost all income is taken into account. However, we disregard Mobility Allowances, war pension, and earnings.

Disability costs

We will ask you to list any expenditure that particularly relates to your disability and this will be assessed when calculating the amount we will charge you. You may be required to provide evidence of this expenditure.

The assessment calculation:

- Add up all income – including income from savings above £14,250 but ignoring earnings, pension savings credit and mobility benefit
- Take away the fixed living allowance of £189 per week (£145 per week for one of a couple)
- Take away the assessed disability costs
- Take away Housing costs, e.g. rent, mortgage, Council Tax, water rates
- The amount left over will be the weekly charge for services (rounded down to the nearest whole pound)

If your assessed charge is higher than the cost of your care service, you will only be charged for the care that you have received each week.

Assessment for Couples: It is usual practice to assess and consider charges for couples receiving benefits on combined income, expenditure and savings but there may be special circumstances taken into account if you feel this is unreasonable. Any savings held solely or jointly in your name will usually be taken into account and some income and savings held in your partner's name can be considered in certain circumstances.

Collection Procedures

If you have a service provided by the council you will receive a monthly invoice, in arrears, from the council. Also, for many of our local home care agencies we have arranged that the council will usually invoice you for your contribution. However, if you pay the full cost of your care and for some other care agencies, you will be asked to pay charges directly to them.

If you have a direct payment for your care, your assessed charge will be deducted from the payments and you will need to pay your charge into your Direct Payments Account.

Appeals

If you feel that your assessed charge is unreasonable, you have the right to appeal. The details of your circumstances will first be checked by the Finance Manager, but if you feel the decision is still unreasonable, the matter will be dealt with through the complaints procedure. You will be notified of the decision in writing.

For further information or if you need this information in a different format or language

**Financial Assessment Section
Adult Social Care
Brighton & Hove City Council
2nd Floor, Bartholomew House
Bartholomew Square
Brighton, BN1 1JE**

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Duty of confidentiality

Everyone working with you has a legal duty to keep your information confidential to the organisation and to only share it with other agencies when it is necessary to provide you with appropriate services or to enable us to carry out our statutory duties. There may also be exceptional cases where the law or public interest will override your right to confidentiality.