

Royal Borough of Kingston

Adult Social Care Charging Reviews



Have Your Say...



We wanted to let you know.

Kingston Council is changing the way it charges for Adult Social Care Services.



Unlike the NHS, social care isn't usually free. We carry out a **means test** which is a financial assessment to look at each person's circumstances to work out how much they should pay for their care.



If you receive care and support from an Adult Social Care service **you may be required to pay towards the cost of the services you receive.**

The services you receive will always be based on your needs and the charge will be based on how much you are able to pay.



The current **Charging Policy**, which is used to calculate how much you pay towards your care, was put in place in 2017 and it is now due to be updated.



Before we make any changes to the charging policy **we would like to hear from you and how these changes may affect you.**

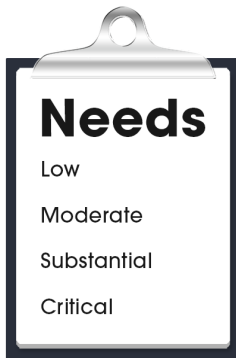
The Council plans to make **four changes** to the current Charging Policy. These are:

Idea 1

Including the Higher/Enhanced Rate of Disability Benefits in the financial assessment



- This will affect people in currently receive social care who also get the higher rate of the two DWP disability benefits:
- Attendance Allowance
- Disability Allowance



- The higher rate of these benefits is given to people who have additional night care needs.



- At the moment people who get **Personal Independence Payment** are not treated the same as people who get **Attendance and Disability Allowance**.



- People getting Personal Independence Payment do not get Attendance or Disability allowance.
- But they can claim for their night care costs through a scheme called disability related costs.



- Our idea is to change this so everyone does the same. Every service user will claim night care as a disability related cost through the council.



- You will be affected by this change if you currently receive a night care allowance.

Scenario 1

Withdrawal of Night Care Allowance



- Mrs. B is of pension age and is in receipt of **Pension Credit of £113.38** per week, **state pension of £164.07** per week and higher rate **Attendance Allowance of £101.75** per week.
- Mrs B's total income is **£379.20** per week.
- She has allowances and expenditure of **£259.46** per week which includes a Night Care Disregard of **£33.65** and Disability Related Expenditure of **£3.23** per week.
- Currently Mrs B pays **£119.74** per week towards her care costs.



- If the proposal to remove the Night Care Disregard is introduced, Mrs B's **income will remain at £379.20 per week.**
- But, her allowances and expenditure will reduce to **£225.81** per week because her allowances would **no longer include the Night Care Disregard.**
- She will now have to pay **£153.39** per week towards her care costs instead of **£119.74.**



- Mrs B still has the option to claim for additional **Disability Related costs**.
- So for example if Mrs B successfully claimed an additional amount of **£30.00 of DREs her care costs would reduce from £153.39 per week to £123.39 per week.**

Idea 2

Introducing an Interim Funding fee



- This idea may only affect a small amount of people who use adult social care services.



- There are times when a person cannot make some decisions for themselves. This is called **lacking mental capacity**.



- When someone **lacks mental capacity** and cannot make decisions for themselves the council may offer to pay the cost of their care for a small amount of time.

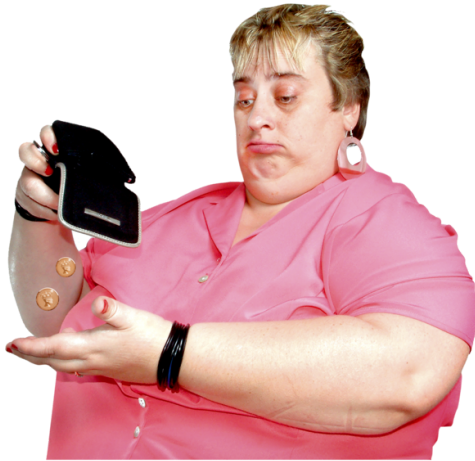


- A £313 one off set up fee will be added for arranging the residential care.
- An **interest fee** will be applied weekly until this arrangement has ended.

***Interest fee** means how much the council will charge you for borrowing money over a short period of time.

Idea 3

Putting a limit on Disability Related Expenditure (DRE) to the same level of disability benefit of which the service user is paid.



- The current charging policy understands that people with a disability spend more money on a day to day basis.
- These extra costs are called **Disability Related Expenditure**.



- Some people can claim disability costs from the council, this covers the extra money people with disabilities spend on a day to day basis.



Some people receive benefits from the DWP this may be:

- Attendance Allowance (AA)
- Disability Living Allowance
- Personal Independence Payment (PIP)



- Our idea is that you can only claim as much disability related expenses as the amount money you receive from disability related benefits.
- For example someone may receive a £101.75 Personal Independence Payment from DWP and claim £110.75 in disability related expenses from the council.



- The new idea will mean that if a service user receives, for example, £101.75 per week in Personal Independence Payment, the maximum amount of disability related expenses they can claim from the council is £101.75.



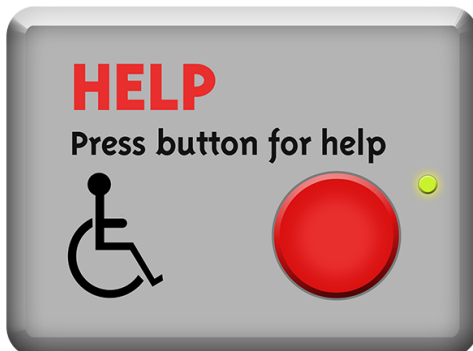
- This may affect you as you currently receive more in disability related expenses from the council than you do in benefits received from DWP.
- In this situation you would only receive as much disability related expenses as your benefits.

Idea 4

Charging for Assistive Technology



- The council are planning to **bring in a charge for assistive technology.**



- Assistive technology is care technology services. This may include electronic equipment with 24 hours a day 7 days a week monitoring service that provides support when someone presses a button.



- Anyone who gets technology but no other adult social care services will pay a 4 weekly charge of **£10.00** towards the costs of their care technology services.

What we are not changing



1. Everyone who can get a care package will still have a chance to do ***a financial assessment** to see how much you can pay towards the cost of your care.

***a financial assessment** means the council will look at how much money you have and your benefits and then calculate how much you should pay for your care.



2. People who get any amount of **Attendance Allowance, Personal Independence Payments** (Daily Living Component), or **Disability Living Allowance** (Care Component) can still ask for help with expenses related to their disability when they do a money check.



- However, this help will have a limit, which means they can only get as much help as their benefit.
- If someone is affected by the limit on help, they will be offered a **financial check** to make sure they are getting as much money as possible and receive advice on managing their budget and money when needed.



3. We will still not count the money you get for moving around, called **mobility allowances**, from Disability Living Allowance and Personal Independence Payments when we look at your finances.



4. You will also be able to keep the minimum amount of money that the government says you need to pay for everyday things like heating, gas, laundry, and more.

- Right now, this amount is **£214.35 per week** if you are over the age of 66 and up to **£171.75 per week** if you are of working age, but it depends on your age and situation.



5. If you have more than **£23,250** in savings you will continue to pay the full cost of your care.



6. In our current charging policy, if you are a carer, **we won't ask you to pay for the services we give you** directly to support your own needs as a carer, if you qualify for that support.



7. The law says that you cannot be charged for certain types of care and support. These are:

- **Short term care** and support this includes re-ablement this must be provided to you free of charge for up to six weeks.
- **Community equipment**, for example aids and minor adaptations. These must be provided free of charge. This would be a minor adaptation costing **£1,000** or less.



NHS CARE



- **Care and support provided to people with Creutzfeldt Jacob Disease.**
- **After-care services/support** provided under the Mental Health Act such as care-coordination.
- Any service or part of service which the NHS is under a duty to provide. This includes continuing healthcare and the NHS contribution to registered nursing care.
- **Assessment of needs and care planning.**



- If you feel like any of these changes may negatively affect you another financial assessment can be requested.
- We will also be offering a financial check to help review household finances to make sure you are getting all the financial help and support that is available.
- We want to make sure you are managing your money in the best possible way.

Have your say...



The council would like to hear your thoughts and views on the changes.



If you would like more information on the changes that will be made and where to find a feedback form you can go to:

www.kingston.gov.uk/charging-policy-consultation



If you know someone who may benefit from learning more about the changes to the Charging Policy please email us at:

adultsocialcare.chargingconsultation@kingston.gov.uk

Or

Call: **0208 547 5000**



We will be holding face-to-face events where you can come along and talk about this in person.

These will be at:

- Surbiton Library, Surbiton: Monday 17th July 14:00 - 16:00
- Session for individuals and families of those with Learning Disabilities at Surbiton Library, Surbiton: Wednesday 19th July 14:30 - 16:30
- Christ Church, New Malden: Tuesday 22nd August 13:30 - 15:30
- Hook Centre, Chessington: Tuesday 29th August 13:30 - 15:30
- Richard Mayo Centre, Kingston: Tuesday 5th September 18:00 - 20:00



Once the consultation closes on Monday 25th September 2023, we the council will look at all your feedback and present the changes to the People Committee, currently scheduled for **Thursday November 23rd 2023.**

This is when a final decision will be made.

Extra Information

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Disability Benefits



Department for Work & Pensions

- The DWP, which is the UK's largest public service, is responsible for administering all welfare benefits including working age benefits, disability benefits and state pension.



- **Idea 1** will impact people who use adult social care services and who also receive the higher rate of the following disability benefits:
 - Attendance allowance (AA)
 - Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

Disability Living Allowance



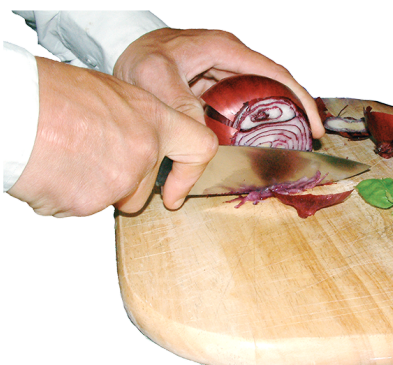
- You can no longer apply for Disability Living Allowance if you are 16 or over.
- You can apply for Personal Independence payments instead.



- Disability Living Allowance is made up of two parts, the **'care component'** and the **'mobility component'**.



- To get **Disability Living Allowance** a person must be eligible for at least one of the components.
- A person may get the care component of Disability Living Allowance if they:



- Need help with things like **washing, dressing, eating, using the toilet or communicating their needs**
- Need supervision to avoid putting themselves or others in danger
- Need someone with them when they are on dialysis

- Can't prepare a cooked main meal.

Personal Independence Payments



Personal Independence Payment is a benefit from the Department for Work and Pensions



It helps with some of the extra costs you have to pay when you have long term ill health or a disability.

PIP

Personal Independence Payment is sometimes known as PIP.

16+

You must be 16 years old or over to claim PIP. You cannot claim PIP if you have reached retirement age.



You can claim other benefits when you get PIP.



How much money you get depends on how your health condition stops you doing daily activities.

Your health condition or disability could mean:

- You need support with daily activities
- You may not be able to do some activities at all.

Attendance Allowance



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Attendance Allowance is a benefit from the Department for Work and Pensions

You can get Attendance Allowance if you:

- Have a disability and need someone to look after you
- Have reached **State Pension age**.

***Your State Pension age** is the youngest age you can get State Pension



You can get Attendance Allowance if your disability means you need support or supervision to care for yourself

6 Months +

You must have needed this support or supervision for at least 6 months.



You can still claim Attendance Allowance if you do not get support or supervision.



If you are nearing the end of your life, the 6 month rule does not apply. You can claim Attendance Allowance straight away

Scenarios

Scenario 1

Withdrawal of Night Care Allowance



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Scenario 2

Introduction of a DRE maximum amount



- Mr A is of pension age and has a **total income of £440.82** per week including **Attendance Allowance of £101.75 per week**.
- Mr A has weekly allowances of **£337.17** per week including Disability Related expenditure of **£118.82** per week.



- If the proposal is put in place Mr A's income will remain at **£440.82**.
- His allowances and expenditure **will go down to £316.10 per week from £337.17**.
- This is because he claims **£17.07** per week more in DREs than the higher rate of Attendance Allowance.

Scenario 3

Introduction of a DRE maximum amount



- Mr R. is of working age and receives **Employment and Support Allowance totalling £180.75** per week and the higher rate **Personal Independence Payment of £101.75** per week for his care needs.
- His total income is **£282.50**.
- An amount of **£171.75** is then deducted from Mr R's income to meet his weekly living costs.



- He has **£120.00 of Disability Related expenditure** and as a result Mr R does not pay towards the cost of his care as the total of his allowances is **£9.25** more than his weekly income.



- Introducing a DRE maximum would mean his DRE allowance would reduce from **£120** to **£101.75** a reduction of **£18.25**.
- Mr R's would be required to pay **£9.00** per week for his care costs whereas previously he was free of charge.

Scenario 4

Introduction of an Assistive Technology Charge



- Mrs T is an existing service user but has been assessed as needing assistive technology. She is required to pay the full cost of her personal care (£63 per week for 7 hours of care).
- As a result the amount she will have to pay the council will increase by £2.50 per week to £65.50.



- Mr W pays a contribution of £25.00 towards the cost of his home care service.
- He has been assessed as needing assistive technology but as he is paying a contribution towards the cost of his care he will not have to pay the £2.50 charge.
- His continuation of £25.00 per week will not therefore increase.



- Ms V is assessed as needing assistive technology but her needs assessment confirms that she does not require any other service.
- Ms V will therefore be required to pay £2.50 cost towards the cost as a flat rate charge.