

Community Care in North Somerset

Charges for Adult Care Services



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North Somerset Adult Social Services and Housing department is responsible for arranging personal care services for people assessed as being in greatest need. These services will help people to remain in their own home if they choose to do so and, where this is not possible, to arrange accommodation in a residential care home. Staff from a number of agencies (Health, Social Services, Housing) will work together with you and your carer or relative, if appropriate, to assess your social care needs and jointly decide how you can best be helped.

For some services there are charges. A financial assessment will be undertaken to find out what you can afford to pay towards the costs of these services.

Charges are usually based on ability to pay.

You will not be refused a service, which it has been agreed that you need, because you cannot afford to pay

The aim of this leaflet is to provide guidelines on the charges that apply for various services. The summary of the charges is available in the Non Residential Services Charging Policy fact sheet. If you need further help in understanding the charges, you should contact **North Somerset Care Connect**, telephone 01275 888 801.

Residential and nursing home care

If, following the assessment process, it is decided that residential or nursing home care is appropriate for you, we will pay the cost of care and accommodation up to a maximum price determined each year by us (see section on choice). We will then decide, with you, by using government regulations how much you can afford to contribute. The following procedure is used to decide how much you should pay.

Income

The first step is for you to let us know about your income, for example, your earnings, pension, allowances and any other regular income. Certain income is disregarded. Further information will be provided about disregarded income during the financial assessment process.

Treatment of capital (savings/assets)

We also need to know about your savings/assets, either in cash, in a bank or building society account, in stocks and shares, trusts or bonds or in any way which brings an income. We also need to know about any Land or Property you own/part own. (Certain assets and savings can be disregarded- for further details please contact the Finance Department on 01275 888341)

If your savings/assets are worth less than £14,250 we will not take them into account and you will be able to use them without affecting the amount you pay as a charge. If they are between £14,250 and **£23,250**, we assume the capital will give you an income of £1 per week for every £250 or part of £250.



If your savings/assets are more than £23,250, you will have to pay the full charge for residential or nursing home care until such time as your capital falls below £23,250. At that point you will be able to claim for Income Support/Pension Credit and, when you have done this, you must apply to social services for financial reassessment.

Usually, any property that you own has to be taken into account in calculating your charges for residential accommodation.

The value of your main residence is only taken into account, when completing the financial assessment, from 12 weeks after the date of your permanent admission to the home or the date it is sold if this is earlier.

However, the value of your main residence will not be included in the calculation of your accommodation charges if any of the following applies: -

- The house is the place where you normally live and you have only gone into a home on a temporary basis
- Your partner, former partner or civil partner continues to reside there (except where you are estranged or divorced from this partner)
- A relative of the yours, or a member of your family who: -
 - is aged 60 or over, or
 - is aged under 16 and is a child whom you are liable to maintain, or
 - is incapacitated

Under certain circumstances, if you are unable to sell a property, we will allow any charge for residential accommodation that has been calculated on the value of that property to build up until such time as the property can be sold.

We may require you to sign a legal document, which ensures that any outstanding accommodation charges are collected when your property is sold.

Outgoings

Your regular expenditure (outgoings) is also taken into consideration. This includes bills you will still have to pay whilst you are in residential or nursing home care, particularly if you are not giving up your house. This could include rent or mortgage not covered by Housing Benefit, heating and lighting costs, rent of telephone and insurance. You are also entitled to a Personal Expenses Allowance.

Choice

We will agree each year a maximum price we are prepared to pay for places in a nursing home or residential care home. However, you can choose a place in a home that is more expensive than the department is prepared to pay for. If you make this choice, you must find someone, such as a relative, who is prepared to make up the difference. You cannot pay your own 'Third Party' contributions. For more information see our 'Third Party Contributions' fact sheet.



Respite care in residential homes

Following your care assessment, it may be decided that some or all of your needs would best be met by providing respite care.

Respite care may involve you staying in a residential or nursing home. If you have savings/assets under £23,250 - excluding the value of your main residence, (Certain assets and savings can be disregarded- for further details please contact the Finance Department on 01275 888341) you will be asked to make a contribution towards your stay as follows: -

- £15.60 per night (£109.20 per week) for those aged 60 years and over
- £11.15 per night (£78.05 per week) for those aged between 25 and 59 years
- £9.05 per night (£63.35 per week) for those aged between 18 and 24 years

These rates are only applicable to the first 28 days of any respite stays within the financial year (8 April 2012 – 6 April 2013). If you exceed 28 days it will be necessary for a full financial assessment to be completed.

If however you feel you will be unfairly disadvantaged by this fixed rate you can choose to have a full financial assessment.

The length of funding assisted respite is based on assessed needs.

Day Care Centres

A charge is made based on the number of attended sessions. You will be charged at the rate of £17.45 per session up to your assessed maximum weekly contribution. However for the financial year 2012/2013 this has been capped at £120 per week maximum.

Home Care (home help)

A standard charge per hour is made for home care. If you are in receipt of Independent Living Fund (ILF) the service is free. Exemption can also be granted on grounds of low income following a financial assessment. Charges are reviewed in April each year. A summary of charges for the current year is available in our Non Residential Services Charging Policy fact sheet.

Emergency communications Carelink Service

Carelink is a telephone alarm service for elderly people and for disabled people with substantial impairments. The system is available in all parts of North Somerset. It is a means of getting help in an emergency, or obtaining reassurance when feeling anxious or troubled.

Provisions of telephones for chronically sick and disabled persons

We can help elderly people and disabled people to maintain necessary outside contacts and to deal with emergencies by assisting them with the provision of a telephone. To qualify for this provision you must meet the following criteria and we will need to undertake a financial assessment.



- You must be living alone, or frequently left alone, or not have a reliable person living with you who can deal with emergencies
- You sometimes need to be able to contact a doctor, ancillary worker or helper quickly
- There is a danger or risk to you unless a telephone is provided
- You are unable to leave the house in normal weather conditions and without assistance, or have seriously restricted mobility

We will meet the costs of installation and rental. The cost of any calls will always be your responsibility.

Acceptance automatically includes connection to the Carelink system.

Community Meals (meals on wheels)

Meals are provided for older and disabled people who are living in their homes within the community and who have no other means of obtaining a meal. A charge per meal is made:

- £3.80 Hot Meal – Weekday
- £3.85 Hot Meal - Weekend
- £2.80 Afternoon tea service

Physical aids to independence

Disabled people can be assisted in maintaining their independence by the provision of physical aids and equipment. Some are provided free on loan by the Health Authorities and Housing and Social Services. Occupational therapists provide training in use of the equipment free of charge, plus advice on where equipment can be purchased.

Structural alterations to your house

Financial assistance may be available towards the cost of structural alterations that assist disabled people in maintaining independence in their homes. In certain circumstances grants are available. In other circumstances clients are expected either to fund the cost of adaptation by a loan from a building society or bank, or by a loan from us. For further details on the rules call North Somerset Care Connect Telephone 01275 888 801.

Useful Information

Calculation/Collection of weekly charges enquiry line: **01275 888 340**
Receiverships enquiry line: **01275 888 347/3**

To find out further information about services please contact

North Somerset Care Connect

Telephone: **01275 888 801**

Minicom: **01275 888 805**

Lines are open: 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday. At other times (including weekends and bank holidays), in the event of an emergency, an Emergency Duty Service can be contacted on **01454 615 165**.



Disability Information and Advice Line (DIAL)

Telephone: **01934 419 426**
Open to public Tuesday and Thursday 1100 – 1500
Wednesday and Friday 1000 – 1400

Crossroads Carer Centre

1 Graham Road
Weston-super-Mare
Somerset
BS23 1YA
Telephone: **01934 411 855**

Counsel and Care factsheet: 'Care homes – what to look for'

Contact:
Counsel and Care
Twyman House
16 Bonny Street
London NW1 9PG
Telephone: 020 7605
www.counselandcare.org.uk

Further Information

The information in this leaflet is relevant as at April 2012. Most charges are subject to annual review. The annual review involves consideration of whether services provided free of charge should become chargeable. It is intended, therefore, to produce this leaflet in April each year. You should however, contact the local office if necessary to obtain the current position on charges, if you are in doubt.

For further information relating to Income Support and other social security benefits, contact your local Benefit Agency Office, which is listed in the telephone directory.

This publication is available in large print, Braille or audio formats on request. Help is also available for people who require council information in languages other than English. Please contact **01275 882 851**

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