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Title: What is Disability Related Expenditure (DRE) Guidance 2023

Aim / Summary: Guidance explaining what DRE is, things to think about, allowances and how weekly costs are calculated

Document type (please choose one)

Policy		Guidance	X
Strategy		Procedure	

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Subject Areas (choose all relevant)

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Please include any supporting documents

1.

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3.

Review date

Amendments

1. What is Disability Related Expenditure? (DRE)

Some people have to pay for equipment or services or have higher than average outgoings because they have a disability or long-term health condition. These costs may be allowable as DRE when working out how much you need to pay towards the cost of your support arranged by the Council.

Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) allows a standard £20 per week for these costs in all cases, but if you think this isn't enough to cover your DRE, a higher amount can be allowed based on a person's assessment.

Your social care worker will discuss your DRE allowances with you when they are planning or reviewing your support. It is important that DRE is considered in all care and support assessments and reviews to ensure people do not pay more than they should towards their care, especially as the current cost of living crisis is causing financial hardship for many.

2. Things to think about

It can be difficult to think about DRE and what this means to you, or the person you care or advocate for. Try to think about day-to-day life and what additional costs you have because of your disability or long-term health condition. This factsheet lists the main DRE costs that can be allowed (Section 4) but these are just examples, and you may have costs that aren't on the list that can be allowed.

3. How much will I be allowed?

In some cases, the Council will allow a fixed amount for a particular service or cost. (See examples in section 8). In other cases, the Council will allow additional costs because you pay more for something.

If you buy specialist equipment, such as a wheelchair, the weekly cost of this will be averaged over the life span of the item. Purchase price £5,000 which needs to be replaced every 5 years. £5,000 divided by 5 to get an annual cost (£1,000) then divided by 52 to get a weekly cost (£19.23).

Some costs may need to be agreed with your social care worker. If your needs change during the replacement period, for example due to a change in health circumstances, then this can be adjusted if agreed with your social care worker. The Council may only make a partial allowance for some items where a cheaper alternative is available, or the service is available free of charge from the NHS.

4. DRE allowances

If your bills are higher than these weekly amounts, you may be allowed the difference between these and the amount you pay as DRE. If you share your house with other adults, we will only allow for your individual costs.

Household Bills	Amount
Fuel (gas /electricity etc)	£22.84 per week
Water	£8.50 per week

If you are unable to carry out these tasks due to your disability or long- term health condition. Where you pay monthly, annually or any other frequency, the average amount you pay will be worked out as a weekly allowance.

Services	Amount allowable
Support to maintain your garden if you have one.	£14.68 hourly (maximum of 2 hours per week)
Cleaning	£14.68 per hour (maximum of 3 hours per week)
Window cleaning	£14.68 per hour (maximum of 2 hours per calendar month)
Support to decorate, repair and maintain your home	Up to £280.53 per year = £5.61 per week. Higher costs can be spread over a longer period, see examples in Section 8
Laundry This includes cost of replacement washer/dryer and extra detergent. Average person does 4 loads of washing per week. DRE applies if person does more than this	If you do 5-7 loads entitled to £4.56 per week If you do 8-14 loads entitled to £9.12 per week If you do more than 15 loads £13.68 per week
Appointee and Deputy Fees	Actual cost allowable

Personal Items	Amount Allowable
Clothing –needing to replace more frequently due to extra wear and tear	Any amount above £3.96 per week
Specialist clothing or alterations to clothing	Actual cost allowable.
Bedding If you need to replace your bedding due to extra wear and tear or damage because of your	Low level (replaced more than twice a year) - £344.35 year = £6.62 per week Medium level (replaced 3-4 times a year) - £573.92 year =

disability. We will also allow the cost of replacing staff bedding if reasonable and not covered by other funding	£11.04 per week High Level (more than 4 times a year or specialist bedding required) - £918.27 year = £17.66 per week
Prescriptions If you don't access free prescriptions	£111.60 per year = £2.15 per week
Specialist Dietary Requirements Recommended by a healthcare professional but not necessarily paid for by the NHS	Actual cost
Privately arranged care If agreed with your social care worker and is not council funded	Actual cost
Health needs not covered by the NHS	Actual cost

Equipment	Cost
Powered Wheelchair /Mobility Scooter Note – allowance may be made for second wheelchair	Actual cost based on need to replace every 5 years
Manual wheelchair If not provided free of charge by NHS	Actual cost based on need to replace every 10 years
Specialist Bed, including replacement of auxiliary equipment like bumpers	Actual cost based on need to replace every 5 years
Replacement Mattress	Actual cost based on need to replace every year
Insurance on equipment Note: A higher amount will be allowed if several items need to be insured separately or an extra cost due to adaptations. This needs to be agreed with your social care worker	Actual cost if not exceeding £79 per year
Maintenance and repair of specialist equipment	Actual cost

Rental of specialist equipment (this may be a one- off rental for a limited time and not an ongoing cost)	Actual cost
Miscellaneous	Amount allowable
Therapy and/or assistance animals Food, insurance, vet's fees, boarding fees if there is an emergency e.g. hospital admission and any other associated cost	Actual cost
Accommodation costs for breaks/respite where cost higher because person needs to take support with them and is charged for a second person	Actual cost
Disability entitlement/identity cards e.g. CEA card/ DID Card/ blue badge	Actual cost
Computer/laptop/tablet and any specialist software	Actual cost (allowable every 2 years)
Assistive technology - Alarms	Actual cost
Travel costs	Any costs above £7.57 per week, after weekly mobility components of benefits have been used.
Meals for carers/support worker	£8.38 per week

5. What evidence does the Council need?

In most cases the Council will need to see 3 months of receipts of expenditure. If you haven't saved any receipts, then these can be sent in later. If you made a purchase a while ago and can't provide a receipt a bank statement or warranty can be accepted.

6. What happens next?

You will be notified of the amount you have to contribute towards the cost of your care by Adult Care Financial Services. This will include a breakdown of your DRE allowance if it is over £20 per week. This will be reviewed by Adult Care Financial Services (ACFS) in April every year automatically.

If your needs or costs change before then or you have any questions about your DRE, please let us know by calling the Community Assessment Team on 0115 9775760 option 2.

If you are having difficulty paying your invoices then you should contact the Debt Recovery Team on **0115 9772727** Option 2 then Option 1, who will be able to discuss an instalment plan or give you longer to pay.

7. What if I'm not happy with the DRE allowed?

In the first instance contact the Community Assessment Team on **0115 9775760** option 2 or email acfs.community-assessments@nottscc.gov.uk

After speaking to the team, if you still aren't happy, you can then make a formal complaint in any of the following ways: -

Online via the Council's website: <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/contact-andcomplaints/complaints/complaint-comment-compliment>

By telephone: **0300 500 8080**

By email: complaints@nottscc.gov.uk

Or write to: Complaints and Information Team, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7QP

8. Examples of DRE Calculations

James purchased a specialist wheelchair which cost £3,600. The life span of the item is 10 years. DRE for this item would be calculated as follows
 $\text{£3,600} \div 10 \text{ years} \div 52 \text{ weeks} = \text{£6.92 per week.}$

Ameer has PIP Mobility at the Standard Rate (currently £26.90). He takes a wheelchair taxi to and home from the day activities he attends each week, which costs him £52. His travel costs are therefore $\text{£52} - \text{£26.90} = \text{£25.10}$. His DRE for this item would be $\text{£25.10} - \text{£7.57} = \text{£17.53}$.

Andrea is a wheelchair user who lives in a rented property. She is responsible for general maintenance of the property and garden.

Andrea needs to employ a gardener for an hour a week but only for 6 months a year. The cost for each visit is £15 which equates to £7.50 a week over the whole year. £7.50 a week is therefore her DRE allowance for gardening.

She has her flat decorated every 3 years which costs her £750 for labour or £250 per year (= £4.81 a week). For decorating, the Council allows up to £280.53 per year (= £5.61 per week). Andrea would therefore only be allowed £4.81 per week DRE towards her decorating.

Her Total DRE costs are therefore $\text{£7.50} + \text{£4.81} = \text{£12.31 per week.}$

As these examples do not exceed the standard weekly £20 DRE amount already allowed no change is required.

John has an assistance dog and has to pay for numerous items such as dog food/treats, flea and worming treatments, insurance, some vets fees, grooming and inoculations, dog beds, etc. the total cost of which is £2,500 a year (£48.07 a week). John also has to pay a cleaner and gardener each week at an additional cost of £30.00. His total weekly DRE amounts to £78.07. His additional DRE over the standard £20 is therefore £58.07.

If you require this information as an easy read document, or in a different format or language please contact, enquiries@nottscc.gov.uk.

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