

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.

1. **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.

1. **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.

1. **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.

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| **Household Bills** | **Amount** |
| Fuel  (gas /electricity etc) | £23.75 per week |
| Water | £8.84 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.

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| **Services** | **Amount allowable** |
| Support to maintain your garden if you have one. | Up to £25.00 per hour (maximum of 2 hours per week) |
| Cleaning | Up to £25.00 per hour (maximum of 3 hours per week) |
| Window cleaning | Actual cost (up to 12 times per year) |
| Support to decorate, repair and maintain your home | Up to £350.00 maximum per year =  £6.73 per week. |
| 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 £4.74 per week  If you do 8-14 loads entitled to £9.48 per week  If you do more than 15 loads £14.23 per week |
| Appointee and Deputy Fees | Actual cost allowable |

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| **Personal Items** | **Amount Allowable** |
| Clothing –needing to replace more frequently due to extra wear and tear. | Any amount over £10.32 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 disability. We will also allow the cost of replacing staff bedding if reasonable and not covered by other funding. | Low level (replaced more than twice a year) - £358.12 year = £6.88 per week  Medium level (replaced 3-4 times a year) - £596.88 year = £11.48 per week  High Level (more than 4 times a year or specialist bedding required) - £955.00 year = £18.37 per week |
| Prescriptions  If you don’t access free prescriptions | £114.50 per year =  £2.20 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 |

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| **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 | Actual cost |
| 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) |
| Technology enabled care that supports you to maintain your independence E.g., audio book subscriptions or door opening or motion detector alarms, | Actual cost |
| Travel costs | Any costs above £9.34 per week, after weekly mobility components of benefits have been used. |
| Meals for carers/support worker | £12.00 per week per carer |

1. **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.

1. **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.

1. **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](mailto: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-us

By telephone: **0300 500 8080**

By email: [complaints@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:complaints@nottscc.gov.uk)

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

1. **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.

£3,600 ÷ 10 years ÷ 52 weeks = £6.92 per week.

**Ameer** has PIP Mobility at the Enhanced Rate (currently £75.75). He takes a wheelchair taxi to and from the day activities he attends each week, which costs him £100. His travel costs are therefore £100 - £75.75 = £24.45. His DRE for this item would be £24.45 - £9.34 = £15.11. He will still get the standard allowance of £20 per week.

**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 a room in her flat decorated every year which costs her £450 for labour. For decorating, the Council allows up to £350 per year = £6.73 per week for the current year. Andrea would therefore only be allowed £6.73 per week DRE towards her decorating.

Her Total DRE costs are therefore £7.50 for gardening and £6.73 for decorating = £14.23 per week. Andrea would not get an additional DRE allowance.

**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 £40. His total weekly DRE amounts to £88.07. His additional DRE over the standard £20 is therefore £68.07.

These are just examples, and you may have other costs that aren’t listed that could be allowed.

If you require this information as an easy read document, or in a different format or language please contact: <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/contact-us> or telephone 0300 500 80 80.

Deaf / hard of hearing: Text relay service Dial 18001 0115 9774050 from your textphone or the Relay UK app.



Download the SignVideo app to communicate with Nottinghamshire County Council in British Sign Language via an interpreter. Visit: [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/contact-us](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/contact-us) for more information.

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