

## Disability Related Expenditure

This leaflet explains how the Council considers Disability Related Expenditure (DRE) as part of your Financial Assessment.

Disability Related Expenditure is additional money you may need to spend due to your disability or ill health. The Council takes this expenditure in to account when working out how much someone has to pay towards the cost of their care and support. This is known as the Financial Assessment



## Examples of Disability Related Expenditure

It can be difficult to think about Disability Related Expenditure as you are probably not used to considering what costs you incur due to your disability. Think about your day-to-day life and what items and services you use. Try to think about what difference there is between what you must spend compared to someone else you know who does not have a disability or long-term health condition.

You may use some items and services more at certain times than others. It may help to look through records you have about your disability and any invoices/ bills receipts to see what you spend in a week/month/year and which costs arise from your disability.

When considering Disability Related Expenditure, the Council will allow reasonable expenditure to help you to stay independent and maintain your wellbeing. The amount of DRE which you tell us about may help to reduce any care charges you may be required to pay. Therefore, it is important that you provide details of all the types of expenditure you incur because of your disability.

### DREs include

Disability Related Expenditure	Example/ Tips
Extra heating	Do you feel the cold and need the temperature set higher? Do you need the heating on constantly at night? Do you spend more time at home because of disability and use more power? Does your carer need to be awake at night? Do you need to have a fan on, when the weather is very hot, as your disability makes it more difficult for you to deal with the heat? Do you use more water due to extra laundry for yourself or your carer?

Community alarm system	Community alarm service, warden-call system, Safe and Connected service
Extra laundry costs	<p>Do you spend extra on washing clothes or bed linen or dry cleaning, because of your illness or disability? This may be because of incontinence problems or because you need to change your clothes more often for some other reason, such as clumsiness due to your disability.</p> <p>Does your night care worker need to use your laundry facilities for their bedding? You may need frequent cleaning of furniture and carpets, and protective treatments to minimise damage or staining, due to disability</p>
Prescriptions, Chemist items and Toiletries	<p>If you pay for your prescriptions for medication</p> <p>Extra bandages, dressings, creams, painkillers, which are not covered by free prescriptions.</p> <p>Extra amounts of things like toilet paper, cotton wool, talcum powder, disinfectants or bleach, because of your disability or illness</p>
Special clothing bedding or footwear	<p>Clothes or shoes specially made or the costs of getting clothes adapted (e.g. having buttons replaced with Velcro)</p> <p>Warmer clothes because you feel the cold (for example thermal underwear)</p> <p>Or for some other reason such as having to buy more clothing or bedding due to your disability or illness. Perhaps an overnight care worker may require bedding. It may be easier to think about the extra costs you spend over a year.</p>
Respite care – not provided by the council	Additional costs that arise due to your disability for example when you go on holiday, such as a carer (or carers) costs or rental of specialist equipment when away.

	Your holiday insurance may be higher because you have a disability
Private payments for cleaning, garden maintenance and domestic help	If you pay someone privately to do gardening, cleaning/ housework and you cannot do these yourself because of your disability.
Disability-related equipment	You may need to buy certain items of equipment for your disability from time to time i.e. wheelchairs, beds, mattresses, hoists, adapted furnishings, appliances or utensils
Transport costs.	Use of taxis if unable to use public transport. Transport to health appointments. If you have Personal Assistant/ Carer and you need to pay for their travel costs to go with you these can also be calculated and included. If you receive the mobility component of DLA or PIP, the transport costs you include must be the amount you need to pay more than the mobility benefit (e.g. up-front costs for a Motability vehicle, to meet your disability needs)

*Please remember everyone's costs will be different, if you have a Disability Related Expenditure that is not listed, you should still include it on your financial assessment form.*

### **Entitlement to DREs**

To qualify for Disability Related Expenditure, you must be in receipt of one of the following benefits

- Attendance Allowance
- Disability Living Allowance (Care Component)
- Personal Independence Payment (Daily living Component).

Your Care and Support Plan, produced by your social worker, may identify disabilities or medical conditions which support the costs you have identified as Disability Related Expenditure.

### **Evidence**

The Council will ask for any evidence you have for Disability Related Expenditure. This is proof of the cost such as bills/ invoices/receipts, contracts and bank statements. You may also be asked to explain why an expense is because of your disability.

The Council may require more evidence for things you have listed as Disability Related Expenditure or disagree in some cases. Not all costs will be deemed eligible and you can discuss the outcome of any DRE claim with the Finance Team or your Social Worker . If we do not allow any of your expenses you are able appeal against our decision if you disagree with it

The expense you have claimed must be paid by you personally. If you are not able to provide this evidence when you tell us about your Disability Related Expenditure you will need to provide the evidence of future expenditure incurred. When this information is provided the Council will reassesses your contribution and backdate this to the date of the initial calculation.

If you would like more information regarding Disability Related Expenditure please contact your social worker or the Adult Social Care Finance Team (helpline 0208 547 4778) [ASC.FinancialAssessments@kingston.gov.uk](mailto:ASC.FinancialAssessments@kingston.gov.uk)