

Disability Related Expenditure Assessment (DREA)

Advice Sheet

Disability Related Expenditure is additional expenditure:

- ◆ incurred as a direct result of a person's disability or illness
- ◆ over and above what a non-disabled person of the same age would spend
- ◆ incurred as a direct result of activity identified in the Support Plan to achieve a particular outcome

More detailed information and guidance are contained in:

- [Fairer Charging Policies for Home Care and other non-residential Social Services](#)
- - Guidance for Councils with Social Services Responsibilities (September 2003)
- [Fairer contributions guidance 2010: calculating an individual's contribution to their personal budget](#) - This document provides guidance for councils in England to use when determining what contribution, if any, a person receiving a personal budget should make towards it. (July 2009)

A person with less than £23,250 in assets is already allowed a standard disability related disregard of £21 per week (reducing to £17 per week January 2012). NOTE: The amount of income considered when working out charges will also increase from 85% to 100% at the same time.

If a person, who is on a disability benefit believes they have disability related expenditure of more than £21 (£17 January 2012) they can request an individual Disability Related Expenditure Assessment. NOTE: If the figure arrived at, is higher than the £21 standard disregard, then the higher figure will be used. If lower, the £21 standard figure will be used.

Before requesting an individual disability related expenditure living please consider the following carefully:

Note that:

- You are entitled to a personal interview and time to prepare beforehand
- You are entitled to have a friend or advocate to support you at the interview
- You are entitled to a copy of any previous financial assessment records
- You define what your disability related expenses are (see over)
- You define how much these cost

The Next Step

- Work out your total annual income
- Work out your total annual disability related expenses (see over)

When you are satisfied you have accounted for everything (all your income and all your costs) ask your case manager for a personal interview.

At this personal interview you are advised to have all the supporting records used in the above calculations and to have a friend/advocate with you.

Please turn over for some examples of the type of things that you can claim as 'Disability Related Expenditure':

Thinking about the extra expenses you incur as a result of your impairment.

There is a form that the assessors use which lists the most common disability related expenses **however there is no definitive list** as to what disability related expenditure comprises (you can refer to list in KCC charging booklet pages 10 & 11). That is to say, the list the assessor uses is not exclusive or prescribed. And you know that expenses can be incurred weekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly.

Remember:

- You define what your disability related expenses are
- You define how much these cost
- Ensure your disability related costs are recorded and identified in your Support Plan

It is 'your' disability related costs that need to be identified and costed. Where possible provide evidence of these expenses. You will be asked for this.

Some examples of disability related expenses:

- **Domestic Support:** (cleaning, shopping etc.) if needs are not met by Social Services
- **Gardening:** Social Services will not normally meet these needs so you can claim these costs if you pay for it privately
- **Social Support Needs:** Social Services will often not meet your social needs, so if you need a Personal Assistant to help you with your social life then claim that as a disability related costs
- **Emotional Support Needs:** related to your impairment
- **Personal Care:** arranged privately for needs not met by Social Services
- **Respite Care:** arranged privately for needs not met by Social Services
- **Clothing:** purchase of clothing/footwear or 'extra wear and tear' as a result of impairment
- **Purchase of Equipment:** needed because of your impairment: i.e. powered bed, hoist, wheelchair, stair lift etc
- **Equipment Maintenance:** i.e. wheelchair repairs, new batteries, specialist equipment repairs, regular servicing of equipment (equipment related to your impairment)
- **Home Maintenance:** if maintenance costs more because of your impairment: i.e. damage caused by wheelchair, having to pay someone to do your decorating
- **Food:** special diet requirements for medical or impairment related reasons
- **Extra Heating Costs:** needed for impairment related reasons
- **Extra Water Costs:** extra washing costs for medical reasons (if your water is metered)
- **Incontinence:** pads, aids, laundry, replacement bedding
- **Lifeline/alarm:** if purchased privately;
- **Medication:** costs of prescriptions
- **Transport Costs:** if not covered by Disability Living Allowance mobility component, or available from Social Services
- **Extra Holiday Costs:** For many disabled people going on holiday costs more than for non-disabled people, for instance having to take a Personal Assistant or having to stay in an expensive hotel for access reasons etc.
- **Wear and Tear:** Having to rely on people doing things for you inevitably means 'things wear out or break' more often than is usual. Other people are not always as careful or familiar with things and accidents happen more often. E.g. clothing, crockery etc.

Remember: This list is not definitive, it is provided to stimulate your mind.

If there are other essential items or costs that you incur, then you should include these. Effectively any items you purchase or maintain to assist you in your daily activities which costs more because of your impairment should be incorporated, however small or inconsequential they may seem. Any extra cost you have to incur because of your impairment should be included.