

## **Disability Related Expenditure**

### **Contributing to the cost of your care – is a 25% allowance enough?**

Anyone with a personal budget and claiming DLA (Disability Living Allowance) or PIP (Personal Independence Payment) will no doubt by now have received a letter from Oxfordshire Adult Social Care telling them what their new contribution towards the cost of their care will be.

This means that from the 1<sup>st</sup> October the amount that you are expected to pay towards the cost of your care services may have either increased or decreased depending on what you previously paid. OCC will no longer carry out an individual face to face financial assessment of your income and savings unless requested. Instead they will send out forms for individuals to provide details of their income and savings. They will deduct 25% of the care element of either DLA (Disability Living Allowance) or PIP (Personal Independence Payment) to allow you to keep part of this benefit to help towards any extra costs you may have due to your disability.

The care act statutory guidance says that the council must leave you with enough money “to pay for necessary disability-related expenditure to meet any needs which are not being met by the local authority”. If you feel that your disability related expenditure is more than 25% each month then you can request a visit from the Financial Assessment team to ask for an individual assessment. They can be contacted on **01865 323642** or **FinancialAssessmentTeam@Oxfordshire.gov.uk**

It can be difficult to think about Disability Related Expenditure and what costs you incur each month that arise from your disability. OXFSN have come up with a list of items and services that may be included depending on each individual’s circumstances. Disability Related Expenditure costs usually fall in to one of three categories.

1. **Specialised items and services:** things that are made to help with your disability such as wheelchairs & care support. These items may have additional costs like repair and insurance.
2. **Increased use of non-specialised items and services:** you may have to use things more because of your disability, such as transport or heating.
3. **Higher cost non-specialised items and services:** such as home delivery.

## Examples of DRE Costs

<b>Disability Related Expenditure</b>	<b>Example/Tips</b>
Community alarm system	If where you live has an alarm to keep people safe and you are charged for this.
Washing powders or laundry	If you need to use a special detergent or a launderette. If you have to do more laundry, for example, because of incontinence, risk of infection or part of a behavior.
Dietary needs	If you have a condition that means you have to eat/drink special foods such as coeliac disease or you are a diabetic. It may also include more expensive ready meals as you cannot prepare food yourself.
Clothing and footwear	Special clothing and shoes to fit your disability. If you have to buy clothes more often. Cost of getting clothes adapted such as Velcro instead of buttons.
Bedding	Special bedding used such as incontinence sheets and anti-allergenic sheets.
Heating costs, electricity and water	If you need your home to be heated more due to your condition (over and above the £15 a week allowance already given). If you spend more time at home because of your disability and use more power. If you use more water due to extra laundry.
Garden maintenance, cleaning or domestic help, window cleaning	You may need to pay someone to do one or all of these if you cannot do them yourself or you are not supported to do them.
Purchase, maintenance and repair of disability related equipment	Items such as wheelchairs, beds, mattresses; hoists, lifts & stair lifts & home adaptations like grab rails & ramps if you hired these yourself (or you had to make a contribution to top up a Disabled Facilities Grant). Any costs repairing or maintaining them, insuring them (e.g. wheelchair services, new batteries) IT such as adapted computers & communication aids, or specialist software. Special gadgets you need in the kitchen or around the house such as food prep machines, bedside tables, bath boards, sliding sheets, & special cutlery if not provided by an OT.
Personal Assistance Costs	If you need to hire extra personal assistants to help with needs arising from your disability & not already covered by your social care package.
Transport Costs	Use of taxis if unable to use public transport. Transport to day-centers', health appointments. Cost of travel for PA or carer to go with you if you need to pay for them.

Prescriptions	If you pay for your prescriptions for medication & equipment/aids
Holidays/respice	Additional costs that arise due to your disability when you go on holiday such as needing a carer or rental of specialist equipment when away.
Therapies	If you pay for private therapy such as counselling or chiropody and podiatry.
Social activities	If you have costs that relate to social activities to help with mental health issues, such as clubs and befriending services, or if you need to pay extra to take someone with you because of your disability
Internet access or other technology purchases.	If the need for internet access or the technology arises from your disability
Home delivery costs	e.g. Supermarket delivery charges If you can't go shopping yourself
Extra costs of day-to-day life	Disposable gloves for PA's and carers not provided by the NHS. Urinals. Anything that you pay extra for that you cannot do yourself because of your disability.
Household cleaning	Cleaner, carpet washing (if you can't do these because of your disability or they are more frequent because of it & not already covered by your social care budget).
Cost relating to hobbies & getting out and about	Where these support your health and well-being and are higher because of your disability, or you do them because of your disability.
The statutory guidance says that policy should 'encourage & enable those who wish to stay in or take up employment, education or training or plan for the future costs of meeting their needs to do so'.	This could include any costs you incur in relation to volunteering, if they are not reimbursed and the volunteering is part of your plans for getting in to work

Everyone's costs will be different and a list of examples cannot contain everything. If you are unsure include it anyway and if you think we have missed anything – do let us know.