

Dear

RE: Your views on our proposal to change the way we work out how much people pay toward the cost of their adult social care services.

To work out how much you need to pay towards your adult social care services, we carry out a financial assessment. We are considering changing a part of the financial assessment for non-residential care called disability related expenditure.

We know that Norfolk currently allows higher amounts than some other local authorities. Our research also shows us that many people are receiving more money for disability related expenditure than they spend.

We would like to change our approach so that we are more consistent with other local authorities, better reflect what people are spending and help the County Council save money at a time when our budget is under great pressure. If our proposal went ahead we could save £1.18m in 2017/18 and £230,000 in 2018/19.

We would like you to tell us your views about the changes we are thinking of making.

We are writing to you because our records show that you currently receive funding for disability related expenditure from us and our proposal may affect you.

What is disability related expenditure?

When you pay for your non-residential care we look at what you can afford to pay.

Some people have to pay more money for things because of their disability, illness or mental health condition. We call this disability related expenditure or DRE. Here are some examples of disability related expenditure:

- A community alarm system
- Paying for your bedding to be washed more often
- Having a larger water bill, to pay for more washing or for dialysis
- Spending more on your weekly shopping because you have a special diet
- Paying more for heating as you get cold very easily.

We take the amount people spend on disability related expenditure into account when we work out how much people have to pay towards their non-residential care. Disability related expenditure reduces the amount we ask you to pay. We call this reduction a 'disregard' or an 'allowance'.

How disability related expenditure works now

Currently we automatically allow everyone who is receiving non-residential care £15.00 a week for disability related expenditure.

Even if you do not spend £15.00 a week on your disability needs we assume you do and reduce the amount we ask you to pay for your care by this amount.

If you spend more than £15.00 a week on your disability needs you can show us your receipts and tell us why you spend this money. If this amount comes to more than £15.00 a week you will be allowed the actual amount you spend. For example, if you are actually spending £17.50 a week on your disability related expenditure, you may be allowed £17.50 as your disability related allowance.

What we might change

The Council is thinking of changing the amount we automatically allow for disability related expenditure from £15.00 a week to £7.50 a week.

What would happen if our proposal went ahead

If you currently spend over £7.50 a week on disability related expenditure you can ask for a review, show us your receipts and tell us why you spend this money. If this amount comes to more than £7.50 a week you may be allowed the actual amount you spend. For example, if you are actually spending £17.50 a week on your disability related expenditure we will consider allowing this additional amount.

If you would rather not show us your receipts, or if you currently spend £7.50 a week or less on disability related expenditure then we will allow you £7.50 a week. When we recalculate everyone's allowance you might have to start paying more towards the cost of your care.

If you receive a direct payment to purchase your own care you might need to contribute up to an additional £7.50 a week to your personal direct payments account. As above, if you spend more than £7.50 a week on disability related expenditure you could ask for a review. If the review shows that your disability related expenditure comes to more than £7.50 a week you may be allowed the actual amount you spend.

If you do not pay anything at the moment, you might have to start paying towards the cost of your care. The most you might have to pay as a result of us changing the amount of disability related expenditure we take into account would be £9.99 a week.

If we are already allowing you more than £15.00 a week for your disability related expenditure you might have to pay more towards the cost of your care. If this is the case you can re-send your receipts and we will look to see if we can allow you the actual amount you spend.

What happens next

There won't be any changes until the consultation is finished. If we decide to go ahead with our proposal then the amount that some people will need to pay will change from April 2017. If the proposal goes ahead we will write to you about what it means for you. If you think you pay more than £7.50 a week on disability related expenditure you would be able to ask for a review.

Remember: This proposal has not been agreed yet. Before we make a final decision, we want to hear how the proposal could affect you.

We would like to know what you think about our proposal to change what we do and save money.

How to respond

We need your view on this proposal by **9 February 2017**.

You can have your say:

- By filling in the feedback form at the end of the letter and sending it back in the pre-paid envelope that came with this letter.
- If you lose the pre-paid envelope you can send the feedback form to:
Freepost Plus RTCL-XSTT-JZSK, Norfolk County Council, Ground floor - south wing, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2DH **(You do not need to use a stamp)**
- Online at <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/consultation/dre>

- by email at haveyoursay@norfolk.gov.uk
- by phone on **01603 638440**

Extra help to respond

If you need support responding to this consultation please ask your care worker if you have one, or let us know on 01603 638440 and we will do our best to help.

We appreciate you taking the time to help us with our consultation.

We apologise if you receive this information more than once, but this may happen because other organisations who provide care on behalf of the council and carers may share a copy of this with you, too.

Yours sincerely



James Bullion
Executive Director Adult Social Services



If you need this document in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact **0344 800 8020** or email haveyoursay@norfolk.gov.uk

Consultation feedback form

To give us your views, please fill in this form and send it back to us at the address at the bottom by 9 February 2017.

Have your say

1. **What do you think about our proposal? How, if at all, do you think that the proposal might affect you?** Please write in the box below. You can add an extra sheet if you need to:

2. Please tick (✓) all that apply to you:

I would be affected by this proposal ☐

I care for someone who would be affected by this proposal ☐

3. Are you...? Please tick one only (✓)

Male ☐

Female ☐

Prefer to self-describe (please specify below) ☐

Prefer not to say ☐

If you prefer to self-describe please specify here:

4. **How old are you?** Please tick one only (✓)

18-24 ☐

25-34 ☐

35-44 ☐

45-54 ☐

55-64 ☐

65-74 ☐

75-84 ☐

85 or older ☐

Prefer not to say ☐

5. **Do you have any long-term illness, disability or health problem that limits your daily activities or the work you can do?** Please tick one only (✓)

Yes ☐

No ☐

Prefer not to say ☐

6. **Are you an informal (unpaid) carer for someone who has a long-term illness or health problem?** Please tick one only (✓)

Yes ☐

No ☐

5. **How would you describe your ethnic background?** Please tick one only (✓)

White British ☐

- White Irish ☐
- White other ☐
- Mixed ☐
- Asian or Asian British ☐
- Black or Black British ☐
- Chinese ☐
- Prefer not to say ☐
- Other ethnic background - please describe below ☐

6. What is your first language?

Please write your answer here:

Please put this form in the prepaid envelope that came with your letter.

If you lose your prepaid envelope, send this form to:

Freepost Plus RTCL-XSTT-JZSK, Norfolk County Council, Ground floor - south wing, County Hall, Martineau Lane, NORWICH, NR1 2DH **(You do not need to use a stamp)**

Your opinions are valuable to us. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and respond.