

April 2012
ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL
Disability Related Expenditure (DRE) GUIDELINES

The Isle of Wight Council's assessment of DRE is based on the good practice guidelines developed by the National Association of Financial Assessment Officers (NAFAO)

The service user's care plan should identify disabilities and or medical conditions that indicate additional allowances should be given.

The council recognises that some service users may not wish to discuss additional expenditure incurred due to their disability. A weekly £10 disregard will be applied to all service users in respect of these costs, regardless of whether or not the costs are incurred, thus ensuring that the process of the assessment is not made unduly complex for the service users. The minimum £10 disregard will not prevent consideration of additional disability related expenses. All service users will be given the opportunity to identify costs in excess of the £10 disregard and will be supported and given personal assistance in claiming such costs where applicable. It is not possible to have an exhaustive list of DRE, but listed are some of the more common items together with the details of how DRE is calculated and what proof of expenditure is required. Each assessment will be considered on an individual basis to take into account items not listed. Discretion will need to be given on the level of costs claimed taking into account an individual's particular circumstances. DRE assessments are reviewed annually as part of the monitoring of this policy.

Evidence of actual expenditure may be requested, at the council's discretion. Where receipts have not been kept the council may request that this is carried out for future expenditure. It is also legitimate for the council to verify that items claimed for have actually been purchased, particularly for unusual items or heavy expenditure.

Costs claimed which arise from a service users' choice for a higher quality product other than that which is provided by the council will not be considered.

Allowances will not normally be given in relation to care or domestic assistance provided by a spouse or partner, other close relative or anyone else living in the same household. A close relative is defined as parent, parent-in-law, aunt, uncle, grandparent, son, daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, step-son, step-daughter, brother, sister or spouse or partner of any of these. However care and assistance provided by family members in exceptional circumstances will be considered.

DRE allowances are subject to change at any time.

The DRE assessment process is divided into three parts:

- Looking after your home
- Looking after yourself
- Transport and travel needs

HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE

Confirmation of who provides the service is needed and if it is an agreement with a relative or friend or a service from an agency. An allowance is dependant on the type and size of the property. Visiting Officers will ask for receipts, evidence and bank statements etc for purchased services.

SERVICE	NOTES	EVIDENCE	MAX ALLOWANCE
Cleaning	Based on 2 x £14 p/h maximum agency rate	Evidence/Receipts	£28.00
Building Works/Adaptations	Date of work	OT REPORT Evidence/Receipts	Actual amount considered on an individual basis over 10 years
Fuel & Heating (Gas & electric)	Allow actual amount that exceeds set rates	Evidence/Bills	Use standard fuel allowances
Shopping	Flat rate 2 x trips @ £5.00	Receipt	£10.00
Personal Care	Purchased privately	Evidence/Receipts	Up to free sit cost (2 x £14 = £28)

Payments to Relatives

There will only be an additional allowance made for this in exceptional circumstances i.e. Relative has reduced their work/given up work to care for client.

Evidence - Backed up by Care Plan

Max Allowance - £58.45 (equivalent to Carer's Allowance)

* Gas/Oil and Electricity Allowances 2012/2013

Single Person - Flat/Terrace	£1101
Couple - Flat/Terrace	£1451
Single Person - Semi Detached	£1169
Couples - Semi Detached	£1539
Single - Detached	£1422
Couples - Detached	£1873

Disability Related Equipment

Full details on all the disability related equipment is needed together with receipts for the initial cost and also for any maintenance or insurance costs and predicted life expectancy.

Equipment	NOTES	EVIDENCE	Max Allowance
Powered Bed	Note purchase date Annual maintenance payments can be included	Evidence/Receipts	Actual cost over 500 weeks Maximum £3.96 p/w
Turning Bed	Note purchase date Annual maintenance payments can be included	Evidence/Receipts	Actual cost over 500 weeks Maximum £6.86 p/w
Powered reclining chair	Note purchase date Annual maintenance payments can be included	Evidence/Receipts	Actual cost over 500 weeks Maximum £3.12 p/w
Wheelchairs electric/manual	Note purchase date Annual maintenance payments can be included- no allowance if provided free of charge	Evidence/Receipts	Actual cost over 500 weeks Manual £3.53 p/w Powered £8.61 p/w
Hoist	Note purchase date Annual maintenance payments can be included	Evidence/Receipts	Actual cost over 500 weeks Maximum £2.72 p/w
Stair Lift	Note purchase date Annual maintenance payments can be included	Evidence/Receipts	Actual cost over 500 weeks Maximum £5.55
Mobility Equipment Scooter etc	Note purchase date Annual maintenance payments can be included	Evidence/Receipts	Actual cost over 500 weeks
Other e.g. Sticks, Frames etc	Note purchase date	Evidence/Receipts	Actual cost over 52 weeks

LOOKING AFTER YOURSELF

Consideration needs to be given to NHS services using the Annual prescription charge £104.00.

Are the items needed or are they a want out of preference? If they are a need then receipts and evidence are required for consideration to be made. If the client chooses a preference then a disregard is less likely to be made.

In accordance with NAFAO an inflationary uplift of 2.9% has been added for 2012/13 based on the CPI rate at February 2012.

Items/Service	Notes	Evidence	Max Allowance
Hairdresser	Only in exceptional circumstances and related to disability	Evidence/Receipts	£2.93 p/w
Chiropodist	Only in exceptional circumstances and related to disability	Evidence/Receipts	£4.78 p/w
Food (Special diet)	Discretionary as special dietary needs may not be more expensive than normal	Evidence/Receipts Request client to get letter from GP	£17.65 p/w Additional food costs over average guidelines
Annual Prescription Charge	Total cost of an annual ticket divided by 52 or actual cost of prescriptions, which ever is less	For those not eligible for free prescriptions	£104.00 p/a £2.00 p/w
Incontinence Pads Etc	Must relate to disability	Evidence/Receipts	£10.00 p/w
Clothing, footwear and Bedding	Considered on Individual basis. Must relate to disability	Evidence/Receipts	£13.22 p/w
Laundry/Washing Powder	Must be related to disability - Care Plan will have identified an incontinence problem. Identify more than 4 loads per week.	Receipts	4-8 loads: £3.51 p/w 9-12 loads: £6.15 p/w 13-16 loads: £9.43 p/w
Alternative Treatments	Allow same as NHS annual prescription charge	Receipts	£104.00 p/a £2.00 p/w

Clothing, Footwear and Bedding

Clothing & Footwear - Clients may wear their clothing out quicker due to incontinence, weight loss, weight gain, outdoor protective clothing for wheel chair users. Specialist footwear may be required due to medical conditions or disabilities.

NOTE -Clothing Allowance is available with War Disablement Pension. This recognises extra wear and tear caused through incontinence and the use of an artificial limb

Bedding

Bedding - Replacement bedding is needed if a client is incontinent, if the bedding gets damaged with a hydraulic bed or if client has a need for Hypo-allergenic pillows or duvets.

Extra Laundry/Washing Powder

The Care Plan will have identified an incontinence problem.

TRANSPORT AND TRAVEL

This is discretionary based on the costs that are greater than those incurred by an able bodied person.

Mobility Allowance cannot be included in the normal financial assessment as an income but the statutory guidance states that transport costs should be allowed necessitated by illness or disability, including costs of transport to Day Centres, over and above the mobility component of DLA if in payment and available for these costs. This implies that transport costs do not need to be allowed if the Mobility Allowance is considered to meet the clients mobility costs.

Look at: Mobility Allowance, taxi or private car, social or medical trips. Provision is only made for the client relating to their disability.

Vehicle	Notes	Evidence	Max Allowance
Taxi	Must be related to clients disability	Consult Swift or CM to evidence - Receipts	45 pence per mile (Inland Revenue Allowances)
Car	Must be related to clients disability	Consult Swift or CM to evidence - Receipts	45 pence per mile (Inland Revenue Allowances)

There should be no allowances made for the following which should be paid from the "Basic Allowances plus 25% disregard" :-

- Water Rates
- Insurance
- Debts, loans including Hire Purchase and catalogues
- Normal Fuel bills, TV licences etc.
- Meals including meals-on-wheels and meals at day centres

DRE for Personal Budgets

Allowances will be considered for additional costs not already included in the current Support Plan.