

Housing & Community Living

Charging Policy for Respite Care

Information for Customers

Current at 7th April 2008

Services we charge for

Respite care (also known as a Short stay) is usually provided within a residential home, although respite care can also be provided through “Direct Payments” or in a family based setting. When it is felt that a carer needs a break, the person being cared for can have their care needs met in a residential care home for a period of time as required. It also gives the person requiring the care an opportunity to socialise and have time away from home.

The same charge applies whether the break has been provided following an assessment of need for the person being cared for or for the carer. Where the service is being provided following a carer’s assessment of need, the charge is payable by the person they are caring for.

Some people receive Direct Payments from Housing & Community Living so that they can arrange their own respite care. The charge is deducted from the Direct Payment and the net amount is paid to the customer. For more information, please ask for the leaflet called “Direct Payments” from the Community Care Contact Centre. They

can be contacted by phone on 01582 547659 or 547660 (or minicom 01582 547692).

People may be eligible for respite stays if they have had their care needs assessed as “substantial” or “critical”.

How much will I have to pay?

Stays of up to eight weeks

Most respite care stays are for short periods of less than eight weeks. In this case there is a standard charge of **£74.20** per week for people who have savings of less than £22,250.

What if I have savings over £22,250?

You will be asked to pay the full cost of the care. This can vary depending on which home the care is provided in and your social worker will advise you of the cost.

What if my stay is longer than eight weeks?

If you have a single stay that lasts longer than eight weeks we will carry out a full financial assessment to work out how much you will have to pay. To do this we use the same rules that we use for working out how much people have to pay if they are living permanently in a care home. These rules are known as CRAG (Charging for Residential Accommodation Guidance) and are issued by the Department of Health.

Will my partner's income and savings count?

We can only count your income and savings when we are working out the charge and not your partner's. However we will ensure that if you have a partner still living at home they have enough money to live on when we work out our charges.

How will I give you information about my finances?

Your social worker or Visiting Finance Officer will ask you to sign a form to declare whether you have savings over or above the threshold (currently £22,250).

What happens if I do not tell you about my income?

If you decide not to tell us about your finances, you will be asked to pay the cost of the services you receive. You can ask us to look at your finances at a later date if your circumstances change.

What if I give some of my money away?

If you give money away to family or friends with the intention of reducing the charge you will pay for your services, we can consider this to be 'deprivation of assets'. This means we can work out your charge as if you still have the money that you gave away.

How can I pay my bills?

We send our invoices out every four weeks, in arrears. You will find details on the back of the invoice about how to pay. You can pay by Direct Debit, Credit or Debit Card, by cheque or cash at the Town Hall, a Post Office or bank.

What happens if I do not pay my bills?

If you do not pay our bills we will send you reminders and write to let you know how much you owe. If you still do not pay our bills we will take further recovery action which could result in court action.

How can I be sure I'm claiming the right benefits?

When we ask you for information about your income we will check to make sure you are receiving all the benefits you may be entitled to. If we think you may be able to claim additional benefits, we can help you to do this, with your permission, by referring your case to our Welfare Benefits Advisor, or one of our Working Partners on your behalf.

Circumstances when there will be no charge

Whenever possible we want to help people to remain independent in their own homes. Some people need time to recover from their illnesses and to consider the options available to them. It may be possible that they do not need to remain in hospital or move directly to a care home. A stay in a rehabilitation unit may be offered for up to six weeks.

The service offers help to increase skills for everyday living, help from physiotherapists, occupational therapists and nurses. The purpose of the stay is to help you gain strength and confidence to return home.

There are **no charges** for stays in a rehabilitation unit for **up to six weeks**. Some people need less than six weeks of rehabilitation, often as little as one or two weeks.

Some people continue to need some care and support when their rehabilitation period has ended. This may include respite care and we would charge you for this care as detailed in the section called "How much will I have to pay?".

There are some circumstances when adults who are still receiving full time education may not be entitled to Income Support. If this is the case you will not be charged. If you are entitled to Income Support we can help you to claim it and you will be charged.

What if I think my charge is too high?

If you feel that your charge has been wrongly calculated you may ask us to look at it again, by writing in to:

Financial Assessments & Benefits Team Manager
Housing & Community Living
Luton Borough Council
2nd Floor Unity House
111 Stuart Street
Luton
LU1 5NP

If you do not disagree with the way the charge has been worked out, but you feel that paying our charge will cause you financial hardship, please contact your social worker or Contact Centre on 01582547659 / 547660.

If at any stage you are dissatisfied with the way we have dealt with you, you may contact the Complaints & Representations Advisor on 01582 547700

We will ask you for as much information as possible about your situation and household costs. This will help us to make a fair decision on whether you can afford to pay the charge, or whether it should be reduced or waived.

Who should I contact?

If you have any questions regarding charges for respite care please contact us:

Housing & Community Living
Financial Assessment and Benefits Team
2nd Floor Unity House
111 Stuart Street
Luton
Bedfordshire
LU1 5NP

Tel: 01582 547703
Fax: 01582 547528
Email: fab@luton.gov.uk

This information can be made available in other formats. If you require a copy in large print, on tape or in a language other than English, please contact us: Telephone 01582 547703, Minicom/Textphone 01582 547745.

Bengali

এই তথ্য অন্যান্য সংস্করণেও সরবরাহ করা যেতে পারে। আপনি যদি বড় হরফে ছাপা, টেপ-এ রেকর্ড করা অথবা বাংলা ভাষায় অনুবাদ করা কপি চান, তাহলে এই নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করবেন (টেলিফোন) 01582 547703 (মিনিকম/টেক্সটফোন) 01582 547745.

Gujarati

આ માહિતીવિગતની વ્યવસ્થા બીજી રીતે પણ થઈ શકે છે. જો તમને આ માહિતી મોટા છાપેલાં અક્ષરોમાં, ટેઈપ પર રેકોર્ડ કરેલી અથવા ગૂજરાતી ભાષામાં જોઈતી હોય તો, કૃપયા ટેલિફોન કરો: 01582 547703 (મિનિકોમ/ટિક્સ્ટ ફોન) 01582 547745.

Punjabi

ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਦੂਜੇ ਤਰੀਕੇ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਮਿਲ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ ਜਿਵੇਂ ਅਗਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਦੀ ਕਾਪੀ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਵਿਚ ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ ਜਾ ਟੇਪ ਤੇ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੋਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ : ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ 01582 547703 ਮਿਨਿਕੋਮ / ਟੈਕਸਟ ਫੋਨ 01582 547745.

Urdu

یہ معلومات آپ کو دوسری صورتوں میں مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ اگر آپ کو اس کی کاپی بڑے حروف میں، یا آواز کی صورت میں کیسٹ پر اُردو زبان میں درکار ہے، تو براہ کرم اس فون نمبر 01582 547703 منی کوم/ٹیکسٹ فون پر رابطہ کریں۔ 01582 547745