

Social care charging policy consultation survey

Please complete this survey and send it back to us by 31 December 2023, or you can complete the survey online at: consultations.leicester.gov.uk

Leicester City Council is proposing a change to its financial assessment for people who receive care. This survey can be filled in by anyone, not just those who receive support from adult social care.

What we are proposing to change

The Department of Health changed its guidance on financial assessments alongside the Care Act 2014. We plan to bring our assessments in line with the Department of Health guidance. The council is also proposing a change to some of its non-statutory services; services that are not required by law but offer support to people.

What we are consulting on

Everyone who is eligible for adult social care has a financial assessment to work out if they have to pay towards the cost of their care and if so, how much. The assessment criteria are outlined in the council's charging policy, which can be found at: leicester.gov.uk/financial-assessment

The financial assessment takes into account any benefits that people may receive from the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) because of their disability. These are called **disability benefits** and are:

- Attendance allowance (AA) – for over 65s
- Disability living allowance (DLA) – for under 65s
- Personal independence payments (PIP) – Slowly replacing DLA

The council also provides appointeeship to manage the financial affairs on behalf of people who lack capacity to manage their own finances or have complex care needs. The council will then pay all their bills and debts, using the person's social security benefits.

This consultation will not affect your entitlement or eligibility to any disability benefits, or their rates.

What we are proposing

We are proposing to change the way in which disability benefits are treated, within the financial assessment, to bring it in line with the latest legislation. We are also proposing to introduce a charge for providing an appointee service, to cover the cost of administration.

If you want to talk to someone about the survey or you need support to complete it, please call our helpline on **0116 454 4400** or e-mail us at: **SCEsurvey@leicester.gov.uk**

We want to hear your views on the proposed changes. No changes can be made until the City Mayor and his executive team have considered the findings of this survey. The consultation will run from **09 October to 31 December 2023**.

Question 1

About you - Please tick the box that applies.

If you are filling this in on behalf of someone else, please tick the box that applies to them.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| a) I get help with care and support from Leicester City Council (adult social care) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) I am the carer or representative of someone who gets help with care and support from the council (adult social care) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) I belong to an organisation that works with vulnerable adults in Leicester | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Other (please state) | <input type="checkbox"/> |

How disability benefits are currently treated

The council carries out a financial assessment to check the money people have and what they need to spend. This helps us to work out if a person has to pay for their care and support and if so, how much.

Some people receive benefits from the DWP because they require frequent help or constant supervision. These benefits are paid at different rates depending on a person's level of need. The council takes this into consideration during the financial assessment.

Currently, for care in the person's home, the council does not include the higher, or enhanced, disability benefit rate in a person's financial assessment. We count up to £68.10 a person receives per week from these benefits as **income**. If the person receives the higher, or enhanced, rate of up to £101.75, the difference between the rates is **disregarded**. This means it is not considered as income. This is in line with previous Department of Health guidance.

Current treatment of disability benefits			
Disability benefit	Lower/standard rate (counted as income)	Middle rate (counted as Income)	Higher/enhanced rate (disregarded to £68.10)
Attendance allowance (AA)	£68.10	-	£101.75
Disability living allowance (DLA)	£26.90	£68.10	£101.75
Personal independence payment (PIP)	£68.10	-	£101.75

How appointeeship is currently treated

The council's Business Service Centre (BSC) is responsible for managing the finances for people who use the appointee service if they require support with managing their finances. This is only exercised if there is no one else to carry out the role for the individual, and a social worker has asked the council to do so.

The council will receive the persons' benefits and then pay rent Council Tax, utilities, and costs towards any care they receive. As an appointee, the council cannot access the person's bank accounts or any other money held. This service is currently provided at no cost to the person.

More details about what we are proposing to change

We want to change the financial assessment and treat all disability benefits as income in full. The Care Act 2014 guidance sets out that all income (care component only, not mobility component) should be taken into account. The council would take the full income into account where we are providing a care package that involves meeting night time care needs. However, the council will continue to apply discretion and disregard part of the income, where an individual is incurring costs for night time care that is not arranged by the local authority.

This means that everyone is treated the same, no matter which level of disability benefit they receive. It brings us in line with national guidance and we think the proposal is fairer. It would help the council spend its money more wisely so that as many people as possible can get the help they require.

We also want to introduce a charge for appointeeship, to cover the costs of administering the service. The council will later decide on whether this service will be provided in-house or via an external service provider.

How the change may affect you

If either of the proposals are agreed, some people are unlikely to see any change at all. They will either pay nothing as they do now or will continue to pay the same amount each week. This is because their income is either too low, or they are already paying the full cost of their services.

Other people will see an increase to the cost of their care. Some people could start paying for the first time. The highest increase anyone with disability benefits would have to pay is £33.65 per week.

People using appointeeship will only be required to pay if they have a savings balance of over £1,000. For those who meet the criteria, a charge of between £14 to £16 per week will be applied, dependent upon how the council decides to administer the service.



Your views and concerns

We want to understand what concerns people may have if they were asked to pay more towards their care. If you do not access our services, please answer how you think others may be affected by the change.

Question 2

If you were assessed to pay more per week towards your care, due to the change in the treatment of disability benefits, how would this affect you?

Please tick the box that applies.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| a) I would be able to manage this | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) The change would affect me a little. This could affect how much I have for extras or treats | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) The change would affect me a lot. This could affect how much I have for essentials | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) I would think about whether I want to carry on getting help from adult social care | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) I do not receive any disability benefits | <input type="checkbox"/> |



Question 3

If you were required to pay towards appointeeship, due to a savings balance of over £1,000, how would this affect you?

Please tick the box that applies.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| a) I would be able to manage this | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) The change would affect me a little. This could affect how much I have for extras or treats | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) The change would affect me a lot. This could affect how much I have for essentials | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) I would think about whether I want to carry on getting help from adult social care | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) I do not use the appointee service | <input type="checkbox"/> |



Question 4

Do you have any other comments about the proposed change?



Equalities monitoring

In order to meet your needs and improve services, we need to know a bit more about you. Please help us by completing this form which describes how you see yourself. If completing the survey on behalf of someone else, please fill in their details. This information will be kept confidential and is for our monitoring use only.

Ethnic background

Asian or Asian British

- Bangladeshi
- Indian
- Pakistani
- Any other Asian background
(Please state) _____

Black or Black British

- African
- Caribbean
- Somali
- Any other Black background
(Please state) _____

Dual/multiple heritage

- White & Asian
- White & Black African
- White & Black Caribbean
- Any other heritage background
(Please state) _____

White

- British
- European
- Irish
- Any other White background
(Please state) _____

Chinese

- Chinese
- Any other Chinese background
(Please state) _____

Other ethnic group

- Gypsy/Romany/Irish traveller
- Any other ethnic group
(Please state) _____

- Prefer not to say

Gender identity

Male

Female

Other (e.g. pangender, non-binary etc.)

(Please state) _____

Prefer not to say

Is your gender identity the same as the gender you were assigned at birth?

Yes

No

Age

Under 18

18 - 25

26 - 35

36 - 45

46 - 55

56 - 65

66+

Prefer not to say

Disability

The Equality Act 2010 defines a person as disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long-term effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities and has lasted or is likely to last for at least 12 months. People with HIV, cancer, multiple sclerosis (MS) and severe disfigurement are also covered by the Equality Act.



Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person?

Yes

No

Prefer not to say

If you have answered 'Yes' to the above, please state the type of impairment that applies to you. People may experience more than one type of impairment, in which case you may need to tick more than one box. If none of the categories apply, please tick 'Other' and state the type of impairment.

A long-standing illness or health condition such as cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease, or epilepsy

A mental health difficulty, such as depression, schizophrenia or anxiety disorder

A physical impairment or mobility issues, such as difficulty using your arms or using a wheelchair or crutches

A social/communication impairment such as a speech and language impairment or Asperger's syndrome/other autistic spectrum disorder

A specific learning difficulty or disability such as Down's syndrome, dyslexia, dyspraxia or AD(H)D

Blind or have a visual impairment uncorrected by glasses

Deaf or have a hearing impairment

An impairment, health condition or learning difference that is not listed above (specify if you wish)

Prefer not to say

If 'Other,' please state: _____



Sexual orientation

Bisexual

Gay/lesbian

Heterosexual/straight

Other

(Please state) _____

Prefer not to say

Religion or belief

Atheist

Bahai

Buddhist

Christian

Hindu

Jain

Jewish

Muslim

Sikh

No religion

Any other religion or belief

(Please state) _____

Prefer not to say



Postcode

Please note we collect postcode data to gain a better understanding of which parts of the city/county respond to our consultations. We cannot identify individual properties or addresses from this information.

Postcode _____

The information you provide in this final section of the survey will be kept in accordance with terms of current data protection legislation and will only be used for the purpose of monitoring. Your details will not be passed on to any other individual, organisation or group. Leicester City Council is the data controller for the information on this form for the purposes of current data protection legislation.

