

Have Your Say Disability Related Expenses Consultation Questionnaire

Proposed Changes to Leicester City Council's financial assessment - For adults who live at home and are eligible for help from Adult Social Care.

Please read the information sheet enclosed with this questionnaire before filling it in.

If you want to talk to someone about the questionnaire, or would like it in a different format such as large print, please call our helpline on 0116 454 4400.

Please send the questionnaire back to us in the pre-paid envelope by 12th April 2016

Who is this questionnaire for?

This questionnaire has been sent to you because you are eligible for help from Adult Social Care or you are a relative or representative of someone who gets help from Adult Social Care.

The council is thinking of changing the financial assessment for people who live at home (not in a residential care home or nursing home). In particular, the council is proposing to change the way it works out Disability Related Expenditure. This is the extra expense people have each week because of a disability. The council is proposing to change the amount allowed each week and the type of expenses that count.

Have your say

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 from the consultation. The consultation runs from 19th January 2016 to 12th April 2016. Please fill the questionnaire in and send it back to us **before 12th April 2016**.

Can anyone else fill this form in?

This is a public consultation and this form is on the council's website. It can be filled in by anyone, not just people who get help from adult social care.

You can fill in this form on our website if you don't want to send it by post. You can find the form at <http://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council/consultations>

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 live at home and 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"/> |

We would now like to ask you some questions to understand how you feel about the proposals. We also want to know how you think they might affect you.

Before each question we will explain what happens now and what we are thinking of changing.

Section A

Proposal One - To reduce the set amount allowed for Disability Related Expenditure per person to a minimum of £10 a week

What happens now with Disability Related Expenditure?

The council checks the money people have and whether they can afford to pay towards their services by doing a financial assessment. This helps the council to work out if a person has to pay for their care and support and how much. Where people have extra expenses because of a disability, the council must allow a reasonable weekly amount for this. At the moment the council allows set amounts of a minimum of £20 per week for a single person and a minimum of £15 a week for one of a couple. The council currently does allow people more than the set amount if they can show that their expenses are higher.

What does the council want to change and why?

The council wants to change the set amounts for Disability Related Expenditure so that a minimum of £10 per week is allowed for everyone.

The council has worked out that on average most people have disability related expenses of £7.50 per week, and so reducing the amount to a minimum of £10 per week is closer to what people actually spend. The council thinks the proposal is fairer.

It means that everyone is treated the same, whether they are single or part of a couple. The council would continue to allow people more than the set amount if they could show that their expenses are higher. This would help the council spend its money more wisely so that as many people as possible can get help.

Question 2

The council wants to reduce the set amount allowed for Disability Related Expenditure to a minimum of £10 per week per person. What do you think about this?

a) I agree with the proposal.

Everyone is treated the same if they are single or part of a couple, so this is fairer.

The proposed amount of a minimum of £10 is nearer to the £7.50 most people's Disability Related Expenditure.

The council will continue to protect people whose expenses are higher than the set amount.

b) I disagree with the proposal.

It should stay as it is now with a minimum of £20 a week for single people and a minimum of £15 for one of a couple.

c) I don't have a view

Please tell us why you agree or disagree with this proposal and any other comments you may have

Section B

Proposal Two - To change the list of expenses that count as Disability Related Expenditure

What happens now?

The council has a list of expenses that are allowed in the financial assessment. This is used when a person says they have disability related expenses that are more than the set weekly amounts.

Example - If someone tells the council they have extra expenses of £24 a week because of their disability, the council will ask them for more information. The person will have to give a breakdown of the different types of items they need each week. The council then checks this against a list of expenses that are allowed. A decision is made to see if all of the items are allowed. If so, the council will allow the full £24 a week.

What does the council want to change?

The list of expenses that are allowed was drawn up a long time ago. It needs a review. Most things will still count as Disability Related Expenditure. But the council wants to take some things off the list. The council thinks it should not allow expenses where the NHS provides the item. Also, if the item is provided as part of an Adult Social Care support package, the council thinks this should not be allowed. The list is a guide that covers most types of expenses. The council will always consider other items that a person tells them they need because of a disability.

The council would keep the following items. They would still count as Disability Related Expenditure if change was agreed:

- extra gas, electricity, water
- additional laundry
- communication including internet
- travel costs where these are above the levels of support from other benefits
- basic gardening
- community alarm
- dietary needs
- equipment not provided by other agencies
- clothing and bedding wear and tear

The council wants to take some items off the list. They would not count as Disability Related Expenditure if change was agreed. We want to know what you think about the proposed changes in questions 3 and 4 below.

Question 3

The council would not allow money on the following items which are provided by the NHS where essential:

Wheelchairs, specialist beds and chairs, incontinence aids, chiropody.

- a) I agree with the proposal.
The council should not allow expenses for things already provided by the NHS.
- b) I disagree with the proposal. (Please tell us why in the box below)
Things should stay the way they are now.
- c) I don't have a view

Please tell us why you agree or disagree with this proposal and any other comments you may have

Question 4

The council would not allow money for the following items, which are provided by the council or included as part of a person's support package if required:

Stair lifts, hoists, help with shopping, companion costs.

- a) I agree with the proposal.
Money should not be allowed for items already provided by the council or included as part of a support package.
- b) I disagree with the proposal. (Please tell us why in the box below)
Things should stay the way they are now
- c) I don't have a view

Please tell us why you agree or disagree with this proposal and any other comments you may have?

Section C - Questions about how you may be affected

Almost half of people who are eligible for Adult Social Care would not have to pay any more towards their care if change was agreed. This is because their income is too low or they are already paying the full cost of their services. However, some people could start paying for the first time and some people who already pay towards their care may pay more each week. Nobody would have to pay more than £10 extra a week.

We want to understand how people would be affected by change if they had to pay £10 a week more. Please answer the next question if you had **Letter A** with this questionnaire.

If you received **Letter B** with your questionnaire, please go to **question 6**.

Question 5

If you were asked to pay £10 a week more towards your care, how do you think it would affect you? (Please tick all that apply)

- a) I would be able to manage this
- b) The change would affect me a little. This could affect how much I have for extras or treats
- c) The change would affect me a lot. This could affect how much I have for essential things.
- d) I would think about whether I want to carry on getting help from Adult Social Care

Please use this space to tell us anything else about how you think you may be affected

The council has a lot less money to provide services than it used to and there are more people who need care services. We are responsible for spending public money carefully and bringing in the proposed changes would save money and help us spend wisely and fairly.

Question 6

If we did not bring in these changes, do you have any other ideas on what Adult Social Care could do to save money?

Equalities Monitoring

In order to meet your needs and improve service we need to know a bit more about you. Please help us by completing this form. This information is confidential.

Ethnic Background

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Asian or Asian British | <input type="checkbox"/> | Black or Black British | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Bangladeshi | <input type="checkbox"/> | African | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> | Caribbean | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pakistani | <input type="checkbox"/> | Somali | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Any other Asian background | <input type="checkbox"/> | Any other Black background | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (Please state) _____ | | (Please state) _____ | |

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Dual / Multiple Heritage | <input type="checkbox"/> | White | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| White & Asian | <input type="checkbox"/> | British | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| White & Black African | <input type="checkbox"/> | European | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| White & Black Caribbean | <input type="checkbox"/> | Irish | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Any other heritage background | <input type="checkbox"/> | Any other White background | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (Please state) _____ | | (Please state) _____ | |

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Other ethnic group | <input type="checkbox"/> | Chinese | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Gypsy / Romany / Irish traveller | <input type="checkbox"/> | Any other Chinese background | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Any other ethnic group | <input type="checkbox"/> | (Please state) _____ | |
| (Please state) _____ | | | |

Prefer not to say

Gender

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say

Age

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| 18-24 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 65-74 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 25-34 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 75-84 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 35-44 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 85-94 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 45-54 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 95+ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 55-64 | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Prefer not to say | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Religion & Belief

- | | | | | | |
|-------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| Bahai | <input type="checkbox"/> | Buddhist | <input type="checkbox"/> | Christian | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hindu | <input type="checkbox"/> | Jain | <input type="checkbox"/> | Muslim | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sikh | <input type="checkbox"/> | No Religion | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Prefer not to say

Other

(Please state) _____

Disability

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 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. Since 2005 people with HIV, cancer, multiple sclerosis (MS) and severe disfigurement are covered by the DDA.

Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person?

Yes No

Prefer not to say

If you have answered **YES** to the previous 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.

Head injury <input type="checkbox"/>	Hearing <input type="checkbox"/> (deafness, severe hearing impairment)
Learning difficulty or disability <input type="checkbox"/> (e.g. Down's syndrome, dyslexia, autism)	Mental health <input type="checkbox"/> (e.g. depression, schizophrenia)
Mobility <input type="checkbox"/> (e.g. using a wheelchair)	Physical impairment <input type="checkbox"/> (e.g. difficulty using your arms)
Visual <input type="checkbox"/> (blindness, severe visual impairment)	Long-standing illness or health condition <input type="checkbox"/> (e.g. cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease, epilepsy)
Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say <input type="checkbox"/>

(please state)	
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The information you have provided will be kept in accordance with terms of the Data Protection Act 1998 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 the Data Protection Act.

Thank you for completing this questionnaire. Your views and comments are important to us. Please return this questionnaire by **12th April 2016** to:

DRE Consultation
Bosworth House (1st floor)
Leicester City Council
1 Grey Friars
Leicester
LE1 5PH

You do not need a stamp if you are using the pre-paid envelope.

We will write to you again when the decision is made. We expect this to be in late spring.