

Adult Social Care



Reading
Borough Council
Working better with you

April 2018 - March 2019

Disability Related Expenses Guide 2018/19

This guide sets out our standard or maximum allowances for disability related expenses:

- If you have one or more of the expenses listed we will usually allow the actual amount you spend up to the maximum amount indicated. We will only consider a higher allowance in exceptional circumstances.
- Costs for disability related services that support the whole household (like a cleaner) will be shared equally between all adults in the household (unless you have a good reason for us to consider a different way of sharing costs).
- Where a service is made up of different elements we will only consider costs for the part(s) that meet a disability related need. Hairdressing is a good example - we will allow a claim for the cost of washing your hair if your disability prevents you doing this yourself, but not the cost of cutting/styling as most people have to pay for this.
- You must provide bills, invoices and statements to support your claim. If you don't we will use our discretion to decide if your claim is reasonable.
- Allowances for special equipment needed due to a disability or condition will be based on the life span of the equipment and either the purchase price you paid or a lower cost alternative if that we believe would be reasonable to meet your identified needs.
- You must pay for maintenance of equipment - we will make an allowance for this in your financial assessment.

Please Note: We won't consider costs incurred for:

- General items or services required for daily living and used by the general population
- Any item or service met by a payment from a Grant (e.g. Disability Facilities Grant) or where another funding source has been provided
- The difference between the actual cost and a lower cost alternative where we consider it was reasonable for a lower cost alternative;
- Structural or landscaping work (e.g. tree surgery, path laying or re-laying) in gardens or to buildings unless:
 - ♦ Disabled Facilities Grant contributions apply in respect of the works carried out
 - ♦ The work is to help prevent falls (e.g. installing hand rails or repairing footpaths or
 - ♦ The modifications to the garden or building are essential for you to be able to use/store securely scooter or wheelchair that you need to use, or to provide secure storage for a scooter and the facility is used as such. In this case, the amount will be calculated as if the modifications were equipment with a suitable life span applied.

DISABILITY-RELATED EXPENSE ITEM	AMOUNT CONSIDERED IN ASSESSMENT	EVIDENCE REQUIRED
Community Alarm System	Actual cost paid unless included in Housing Benefit award	Bills/bank statements
Privately-arranged registered ¹ care services (including respite care) – if it is part of the agreed care and support plan and council-arranged support is reduced accordingly	Actual cost paid up to a maximum of £1383 per year (average £26.60 per week)	Bills/receipts from provider
Private domestic help ² - where Social Care Assessment confirms this is necessary due to disability and isn't provided through Council-arranged support.	Actual cost paid up to £20.00 per week for single person household or cost proportionately divided by the number of other adult household members.	Bills/receipts from provider for at least 4 weeks
Additional laundry and replacement bedding costs (where more than 4 loads washing/week needed due to incontinence or other disability-related or medical reason)	An amount of £3.76 per week.	Assessment confirms need
Additional cost of specialist dietary items required due to confirmed ³ medical condition or disability	Actual cost paid for specific dietary items purchased due to illness or disability	Details and receipts of specialist dietary purchases
Essential equipment purchased due to disability/condition to support independent living at home (if not supplied free of charge, through Adult Care or Health, and not supplied through a Disabled Facilities Grant)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Item costing £1,000 or more - actual cost paid, divided by 500⁴ ▪ Equipment costing £100 - £1000 £100 - actual cost paid divided by 250⁵ ▪ Equipment costing less than £100 - actual cost paid <p>Equipment may include stair lift, powered bed, turning bed, wheelchair, riser chair, mobility equipment⁶.</p>	Evidence of purchase (bill, receipt) In cases of doubt, social care worker or Occupational Therapist to confirm purchase is an essential requirement
Essential equipment maintenance/repair (if not maintained by social services)	Actual cost of maintaining equipment - costs would be relevant to the items listed above	Bills/receipts from provider, bank statements, or maintenance contract showing cost.

¹ Registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC)

² May include cleaning, shopping, domestic tasks, basic garden maintenance (e.g. grass cutting)

³ Need confirmed by social services or NHS

⁴ Divided by 500 to reflect a 10 year equipment life.

⁵ Divided by 250 to reflect a 5 year equipment life.

⁶ mobility equipment cost allowed is net of any DLA/PIP mobility allowance received

DISABILITY-RELATED EXPENSE ITEM	AMOUNT CONSIDERED IN ASSESSMENT	EVIDENCE REQUIRED
Specialist clothing and footwear and replacements due to wear and tear	Expenditure on footwear over £38 per pair of specialist shoes (averaged over 1 year). For specialist clothing and frequent replacements - up to £6.91 per week - if good reason.	Receipts or cheque stubs
Additional heating Allowance	Actual gas and electricity paid, averaged over one year, minus the annual average amounts ⁷ <i>Annual Average fuel amounts:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Flat/Terrace - single occupancy - £1,206</i> ▪ <i>Flat/Terrace - couple/shared occupancy - £1,591</i> ▪ <i>Semi-detached - single occupancy - £1,281</i> ▪ <i>Semi-detached - couple/shared occupancy: £1,688/year</i> ▪ <i>Detached - single occupancy £1,558</i> ▪ <i>Detached - couple/shared occupancy £2,054</i> 	Bills from Provider
Chiropody	Actual cost up to a maximum £133.78 averaged over one year (equivalent to max £2.57/week), if NHS chiropodist not available (based on 6 weekly visits).	Receipts or cheque stubs
Travel and transport costs where social services have confirmed need for specialist transport requirements.	Actual costs, net of any DLA Mobility received or PIP Mobility received, if they are incurred solely or mainly due to disability and the needs are identified in the Assessment. Allow actual commercial costs (if reasonable) up to £23.43/week or more if evidence is provided. Allow payments to relatives if up to £11.71/week.	Bills/Receipts where applicable
Prescriptions, medical and chemist items	Actual cost if not supplied free through the NHS or the cost of annual season ticket (divided by 52 weeks), whichever is less. Allowed when recommended by a GP or specialist.	Receipts / evidence of season ticket
Hair Washing	Actual cost paid for washing & drying service if can't do this and it is not part of the care package. Actual average weekly cost up to £6.72 per week.	Bills/Receipts
Water Meter Charges	Metered amounts in excess of £383 pa (average annual household bill).	Bills
Other disability related expenses	Other specific disability-related expenses may be allowed with good reason and proof of costs. Responsibility for decisions about other DRE items is outlined below.	Proof of costs required

⁷ Average annual amounts based on good practice guide issue by the National Association of Financial Assessment Officers.