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**Paying for Residential and Nursing Services  
2017-2018**



## Who pays?

We usually make a charge for services provided by Social Services. To make sure you are able to afford these charges, we complete a 'financial assessment'. We will also arrange a welfare rights benefit check to make sure you are claiming everything you are entitled to.

Services are usually free if you are:

- under 18; and
- getting help under section 117 of the Mental Health Act 1983.
- Getting help from the Independent Living Fund

## The financial assessment

Most people are expected to contribute towards the cost of their care in a Residential or Nursing Home. When a person is unable to afford the full cost of a Residential or Nursing Home place, they may receive financial support from the Social Services and/or the Department of Work and Pensions.

This help will only be provided following a full assessment of the person's care needs, and a financial assessment of their means. All financial assessments for Residential and Nursing Home care are calculated according to national guidelines.

Some people placed in Nursing Homes may have their costs met by the Local Health Board. This is where the person meets the Local Health Board's criteria of eligibility for continuing health care, and the Local Health Board decides to provide that continuing health care in a Nursing Home.

However, all people assessed by the Local Health Board as needing nursing care are entitled to a 'Free Nursing Care' grant of £149.67 per week whether they receive financial assistance from Social Services or not.

Residential and Nursing Home fees vary according to your assessed care needs (see the page 6 for a full list of fees). Please note that, unless you are liable to pay the full fees, your contribution will not be affected by the category of care you receive.

## Am I entitled to support from public sources?

If your savings are over £30,000, you will have to pay the full cost of your care, until your savings reduce to below £30,000 (£24,000 if you receive care for a period of less than 8 consecutive weeks).

Please contact the Financial Assessment Unit (contact details on page 4) if you hold Bonds, excluding National Savings Bonds, as some Bonds are not treated as capital.

**Whatever your circumstances you will have at least a personal allowance of £27.50 per week. You cannot be asked to use this personal allowance to pay for Residential or Nursing Home fees.**

## How much do I have to pay?

There's no standard answer - it depends on a number of factors including:

- whether your stay is a short respite break or a longer stay;
- whether you have a partner still living at home;
- your weekly income, including your pension;
- what other allowances you may be entitled to;
- the amount of your savings and other assets;
- whether or not you own property.

## **How much will respite cost?**

The cared for person who receives the respite care is the person eligible to pay for the service. From April 2016 under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 the way we charge for respite has changed.

If you receive respite for a period of less than 8 consecutive weeks you will be financially assessed in the same way as if you were receiving community care and support services under our non-residential charging policy.

The contribution for respite is £15.80 per hour. The maximum contribution chargeable is £70.00 per week. This will include the contribution you pay towards any community care and support services.

The week runs from a Sunday to a Saturday. Therefore you must be aware that if you receive 7 days of consecutive respite that falls over 2 charging weeks, you will be charged for the number of days that are received within each charging week separately.

If your stay in a care home is extended and exceeds 8 weeks, the way you are charged will change. After the 8 weeks you will be financially assessed under our Residential Charging Policy.

If you require a temporary stay in a care home and the period requested is known to be longer than 8 weeks at the start of the service, you will be charged and financially assessed under our Residential Charging Policy from day 1 of your stay.

## **How do I find out?**

A Conwy County Borough Council employee will complete a Financial Assistance Claim form with you (with help from family or carer(s) if you wish). This form will ask for details of your family circumstances, your housing arrangements, your income and your savings. Please make sure that the information you give is as accurate as possible.

Once the form is received by the Financial Assessment Unit, you will be provided with an estimated weekly charge. If you are likely to be admitted directly from hospital to a home, the hospital Social Workers can assist you.

## **What information do I need to provide?**

You will need to provide evidence of all capital, savings and investments if they add up to £6,000 or more if you are 59 years old or younger and £10,000 if you are 60 years old or over. If they are below this then you do not need to provide evidence.

By capital, savings and investments we mean money held in current accounts and savings accounts with banks/ building societies, Post Office accounts, Premium Bonds, National Saving Certificates, ISAs, stocks shares and unit trusts. We need to see evidence of any interest/dividend you receive for savings and investments.

The evidence you send must show for at least the last two months.

You will need to provide evidence of any income you receive such as State Retirement Pension or Occupational Pension etc for at least the last two months.

## **How do I pay?**

Your contribution must be paid directly to the home, usually monthly or weekly. Your financial affairs can be managed by a third party, so long as this person is recorded as being your appointed

representative.

Social Services agree a weekly fee with the homes, and will only pay for a more expensive home if there are special reasons. The resident may choose a more expensive home provided that there is a third party willing to meet the extra cost. However a resident cannot use their own resources to pay for more expensive accommodation, i.e. act as their own third party if they need financial assistance from Social Services.

### **Will my Husband or Wife have to pay anything?**

The financial assessment is based only on your assets plus your share of any joint assets.

### **What will happen to my house?**

Your property will not be taken into consideration if you are a temporary resident within a Residential or Nursing Home.

If you are a permanent resident, and hold below £30,000 in capital, for the first 12 weeks of your stay, your house will not be taken into account in calculating the amount you pay. Following this 12 weeks period the rules relating to property are quite complicated and we therefore need to see details of your circumstances before we can give a definite answer. However, your house will not be taken into consideration;

- while your partner or dependent relatives (under 16 or incapacitated) continue to live there;
- in certain circumstances, while your live-in carer (who has given up their own home continues to live there;
- or if your stay in the home is for respite or short term care.

In some circumstances it may be appropriate to place a legal charge on the property. (This does not mean that you have to sell your house at this stage, but that when it is eventually sold, the Local Authority will be able to recover any charges due.) No interest is charged on any such debt during the resident's lifetime.

It is important for you to know that if you transfer your house to someone else, or dispose of any assets, for the purposes of reducing your liability to pay for accommodation, then Conwy County Borough Council may take these assets into account as if you still owned them.

If your stay is for respite or short-term care, for the first 12 weeks you will normally be able to keep a fixed amount to pay for the costs of running your home (usually £20 if you live alone, and £10 if your accommodation is shared)

### **Where can I get further advice from?**

Social Workers for older people, people with disabilities or sensory impairments and people with learning disabilities will try to answer your questions. They can be contacted through the Conwy Access Team:

Conwy Access Team Room  
Colwyn Leisure Centre  
Eirias Park  
Abergele Road  
Colwyn Bay  
Conwy  
LL29 7SP  
Tel; 0300 4561111

Financial assessment officers for Residential and Nursing Home care are based at:

Government Buildings  
Dinerth Road  
Colwyn Bay  
LL28 4UL  
Tel; 01492 574122

Independent advice is available from the Citizen's Advice Bureau.

Eryl Wen  
Eryl Place  
Llandudno  
LL30 2TX  
Tel; 0844 4772020

A useful fact sheet is available from:

Age Connects  
North Wales Central  
15 Bridge Street  
Denbigh  
Tel; 01745 816947

## **What else do you need to know?**

### **If things go wrong**

If you think something has gone wrong, we want to know so that we can try to put it right. Our complaints procedure is easy to use and helps make sure we give equal service everywhere. You can make a complaint in the way that suits you, including:

By phone; 01492 574103

By visiting or writing to; Government Buildings, Dinerth Road, Colwyn Bay. LL28 4UL  
and

By e-mail [cssc@conwy.gov.uk](mailto:cssc@conwy.gov.uk)

If you complain, we:

Aim to reply to your complaint within five working days of receiving it, with a full response within 15 days; and

Will evaluate our complaints in an attempt to improve our service.

You can get more information about how to complain from our leaflet called 'How do I complain or comment?'. You can get this from any of our offices.

**Data Protection: We, Conwy County Borough Council, are the data controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 1998.**

**If you want to know more about what information we have about you, or the way we use the information, please ask us..**

**If you need a copy of this leaflet in Welsh, Braille or large print please contact this office. We also have access to a language line.**

**Revenues & Benefits Department**

Government Buildings

Dinerth Road

Colwyn Bay

LL28 4UL

Phone: 01492 574122

Fax: 01492 574160

Email: [fao@conwy.gov.uk](mailto:fao@conwy.gov.uk)

BT Text Relay: 18001 01492 574122

We also have access to a language line which is a 24 hour telephone interpreting service.

## A list of charges from April 2017 to March 2018

Conwy County Borough Council agree a weekly fee with homes (list of fees below), and will only pay for a more expensive home if there are special reasons. The resident may choose a more expensive home provided that there is a third party willing to meet the extra cost. However a resident cannot use their own resources to pay the more expensive accommodation i.e. if they act as their own third party if they need financial assistance from Conwy County Borough Council.

These fees may not be appropriate if you are a private resident i.e. paying the fee in full yourself.

<b>Residential care</b>	<b>Per Week</b>
Elderly people	£528
Very dependent elderly people	£571
Mentally ill people	£528
People with learning disabilities	£528
People with a physical disability	£571
People with a drug or alcohol problem	£571
Elderly people with a mental problem	£571
Exceptional special need: the Social Worker will decide this amount	

<b>Nursing home care</b>	<b>Per Week</b>
Elderly people	£741.67
Mentally ill people	£741.67
Elderly people with a mental problem (in a nursing home)	£773.67
People with learning disabilities	£741.67
People with a physical disability	£741.67
People with a drug or alcohol problem	£741.67

<b>Local authority homes</b>	<b>Per Week</b>
Elderly people (temporary)	£571
Elderly people (permanent)	£571
Mentally ill people	£571