

# INFORMATION SHEET

## Disability Related Expenditure (DRE)

### What is Disability Related Expenditure?

If your relative receives care and support funded by their Local Authority (Social Services) they may have to contribute towards the cost of this care. The amount they contribute is calculated during a financial assessment.

As part of the financial assessment the Local Authority (LA) is required to consider Disability Related Expenditure (DRE). Disability Related Expenditure is the extra costs that arise as a result of disability. For example, if your relative needs several changes of clothing each day, there are additional costs for laundry, wear and tear on the washing machine and tumble dryer, electricity costs etc. The LA must take all of these costs into account when deciding how much you pay towards your care costs. In practical terms this means that these costs will be deducted from the total amount your relative is required to pay.

The Care and Support Statutory Guidance (updated in January 2022) states that 'any reasonable costs directly related to a person's disability should be included'.

The Care Act and the Guidance does not provide an exhaustive list of what should be considered as DRE but costs could include:

- Cost of specialist items
- Entry to specialist activities
- Accessing local amenities that promote inclusion if stated in the Care Plan
- Additional cleaning materials/laundry detergent due to soiling/urinating
- Above average usage of gas/electricity/water due to additional laundry
- Special clothing/special bedding
- Cost of special dietary products
- Cost of replacement items caused by challenging behaviour.
- Transport costs to places specified in your relative's care plan

The amount of DRE deducted from your care costs should be based on your actual costs, not a standard allowance that is given to everyone with care and support needs.

All our information sheets are available to download free of charge.

To enable us to continue our work please support us or donate £3 by texting CBF to 70450.

Is this resource helpful? Please spend a few minutes giving us some feedback:

[www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/cbfresources](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/cbfresources)

## Cost of Living Crisis and DRE

Many families are finding that the amount disregarded as DRE during their financial assessment no longer covers the real cost of these items. This is especially the case with utility bills.

If you feel that your relative's disability related costs have increased you can request a disability related expenditure assessment to update these costs. This could result in a reduction in the amount your relative is required to contribute towards their care and support. The template letter on the following pages has been created to use to request this from your relative's social worker.

If your relative receives certain benefits, has a water meter and uses a lot of water due to their disability they may be eligible for the WaterSure scheme which caps the amount they can be charged for their water usage. This can make a significant difference to some families and individuals. For more information please see [WaterSure scheme – help with paying water bills - Citizens Advice](#).

If you would like more information about financial assessments for care costs please see the Mencap website: [2017.134 Information and advice resources Financial charges for care.pdf \(mencap.org.uk\)](#).

### The Challenging Behaviour Foundation

We are a registered UK charity specifically focussed on the needs of children, young people and adults with severe learning disabilities whose behaviour challenges, and their families.

We will make a difference to the lives of people with severe learning disabilities, whose behaviour challenges, and their families by:

- Championing their rights
- Ensuring timely information and support
- Raising awareness and understanding
- Promoting and sharing best practice

To access our information and support, call 01634 838739, email [info@thecbf.org.uk](mailto:info@thecbf.org.uk) or visit our website: <https://www.challengingbehaviour.org.uk>

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## Template letter to request Disability Related Expenditure assessment

Name of local authority  
Address of local authority

Dear [Insert Social Worker's name],

I am a parent/carer/deputy of [insert name, DOB]. Following a recent assessment of his/her income and living costs, and a subsequent request to pay towards the cost of care and support. I am writing to formally request a Disability Related Expenditure assessment relating to his/her expenses.

[Insert name] has several eligible needs, which are stated in his/her Care Plan. The following information needs to be included when considering his/her outgoings and the Disability Related Expenditure should be included in the calculation.

Assessed need as stated in [insert name] Care Plan:

Provide a list of person's eligible needs stated in the care plan which needs to be considered ie

[The Care Plan states [insert name] should continue to have links with his family]

[The Care Plan states [insert name] should have access to local amenities]

[The Care Plan states [insert name] should have opportunities to develop relationships in the community]

[The Care Plan states [insert name] independence should be supported]

[The Care Plan states staff should help to reduce [insert name] anxieties]

[The Care Plan states [insert name] should be supported at times of distress/ helped to reduce Challenging Behaviours such as ripping clothes/ soiling/property destruction]

I am enclosing receipts/invoices to evidence proof of purchase as the additional cost of these are related to [insert name] disability and his/her eligible needs (examples below):

Cost of specialist items

[Entry to specialist activities such as .....]

[Accessing local amenities as these promote inclusion as stated in the Care Plan]

[Additional cleaning materials/laundry detergent due to soiling/urinating]

[Above average usage of gas/electricity/water due to additional laundry]

[Special clothing/special bedding]

[Cost of special dietary products due to XXXXX disability]

[Cost of replacement items caused by challenging behaviour]

[This list is not exhaustive and any reasonable costs relating to [insert name] disability should be included.]

The Care and Support Statutory Guidance ( updated January 2022) states that ‘any reasonable costs directly related to a person’s disability should be included’ therefore, I believe the above information supports my request for a disability related expenditure assessment and should be considered.

Additionally, The Care and Support Statutory Guidance, Annex C, 40) (xii) states that the local authority should include other transport costs necessitated by illness or disability, including costs of transport to day centres, over and above the mobility component of DLA or PIP and I would like for this to be included during your assessment process:

[Fuel to .....]

[Taxi to .....]

I look forward to receiving your response by [14 days from date sent].

I have written this letter using a template provided by the Challenging Behaviour Foundation, a registered charity supporting the families of people with severe learning disabilities whose behaviour may challenge.

Yours faithfully,

[insert name]