



Renfrewshire
Council

Care at Home Charging Policy

Information Leaflet

2011/12

CALCULATING YOUR CARE AT HOME CHARGE 2011/12

We use your “available weekly income” to calculate what you are liable to pay

Firstly, from the information you have given us we will calculate what your **available weekly income** is.

Available weekly income is the income you receive every week, such as: welfare benefits; pension etc., **less** certain housing payments that you make. We then apply a set charge (this is currently 75p) for every £1 of **available weekly income** above the threshold level.

What we include as weekly income

When calculating available weekly income, we **include**:

- state retirement pension
- any works pension in payment
- some welfare benefits in payment (*some benefits are not included - see below*)
- an amount related to savings **above £10,000**
If you have savings between £10,000 and £23,500, we will add £1 to your available weekly income for each block of £500 between these amounts. For example, if you have savings of £12,000, then £4 of income per week will be added to your available weekly income.

What we leave out of weekly available income

When calculating available weekly income we **leave out**:

- Any rent, or mortgage interest, being paid
- DLA Mobility Component
- War Pensioner’s Mobility Supplement
- Carers Allowance
- Christmas Bonus
- Council Tax and Housing Benefits (water and sewerage charges are not excluded)
- Gallantry Awards (GC, VC, similar from abroad)
- Social Fund payments
- Winter Fuel Payments from DSS
- Independent Living Fund Payments
- War Widows’ Special Payments
- any payment from a range of charitable and special funds
- income from a mortgage protection policy
- income from a “home income plan” annuity
- income in kind, not cash
- trainees’ training premium and travelling expenses

- child benefit
- £20 earning disregard
- Attendance Allowance / Disability Living Allowance (Care Component)

Unless a client receives overnight services we disregard the difference between the higher and lower / middle rate attendance allowance or disability allowance (care component). In all other circumstances the full value of the Allowances is taken into consideration.

We also **disregard** the first £10 of the following:

- payments to victims of Nazi persecution paid under German or Austrian law
- Civilian war injury pension
- War Disablement Pension
- War Widow's Pension (but not War Widows' Special Payments)

Free service below “charge thresholds”

If you are **over 60** and your available income after the above is below:

- **£161** and you have been financially assessed as a single person you will not pay anything for the service
- **£245** and you have been financially assessed as a couple you will not pay anything for the service

If you are **under 60** and your available income after the above is below:

- **£113** and you have been financially assessed as a single person you will not pay anything for the service
- **£172** and you have been financially assessed as a couple you will not pay anything for the service

The amounts shown above are called the **charge thresholds**.

The amount which you will be charged

When we have calculated your **available weekly income**, we multiply your available weekly income by **75p** for every **£1** you have **above** the charge threshold.

Some examples of these calculations are provided in this leaflet.

- If your savings are **more than** £23,500 you will pay the full cost of the service which is currently **£14.24** per hour.
- If your savings are **less than** £23,500 we will ensure that when we calculate your charge we do not charge you more than it costs to provide the service.

A letter will be sent to you confirming your weekly charge. You should confirm that you agree with it by signing and returning the attached pro forma to your local area team.

Payment Options

A number of payment options are available to you:

- By telephoning Renfrewshire Council's Customer Contact Centre on 0141 842 3053

- payment at any “Paypoint” counter
- payment at any Post Office
- payment at any Neighbourhood Office
- using the “Touch Tone 24” facility detailed on the bill – this is a 24 hour facility.

Please note: If you are aged 65 years and over and have been assessed as requiring a personal care service, this part of your care package will be provided **free of charge**, however other elements may be subject to charge.

Examples to explain how charges are calculated

Example 1

A 90 year old woman lives in a local authority house and receives 9.25 hours personal care and 7.5 hours domestic care per week. None of these services are provided overnight.

Her weekly income is £260.95. The total cost of her chargeable services is £106.80. Her financial assessment indicated that she could afford to pay £56.74 per week towards the cost of her care. The financially assessed charge is the charge which she will have to pay.

Example 2

Mr and Mrs A (aged 76 and 77) live in sheltered accommodation. They receive 14 hours of personal care, delivered overnight, 2 hours of housing support and 3 hours of domestic care.

Their income is £391.85 from: a retirement pension; pension credits; occupational pension; and, higher rate attendance allowance for both claimants. They also receive full housing benefit.

The total cost of their chargeable services is £71.20. Their financial assessments indicated that they could afford to pay £113.44 per week towards the cost of their care. In this example the clients will pay the full cost of their chargeable services £71.20 because it is less than the amount they can afford to pay, based on their financial assessments.

Example 3

A 30 year old man with learning disabilities lives in a local authority house. He receives 5 hours personal care, 4 hours housing support and 6 hours domestic assistance. He receives Income Support of £122.80 (comprising of £67.50 personal allowances for 25 and over and severe disability £55.30) plus a DLA care component of £49.30 per week. He does not receive any housing benefit.

As he also earns £65 a week from a part time job this will affect the amount he will have to pay. Because of his disability, he will be allowed a £20 earnings disregard (earnings disregard higher – special occupations/circumstances). However, the remaining £45 will mean that his Income Support will be reduced from £122.80 to £77.80.

The total cost of his chargeable services is £213.60. His financial assessment indicated that he could contribute £41.55 per week towards the cost of his care. The financially assessed charge is the charge which he will have to pay.

I. Renfrewshire Council Social Work: Examples of Care at Home Charges 2011/12

	Example 1	Example 2	Example 3
Support Hours:			
Personal Care	9.25	14.00	5.00
Domestic Care	7.50	3.00	6.00
Housing Support		2.00	4.00
Total Hours	16.75	19.00	15.00
Housing Benefit	Yes	Yes	No
Chargeable Hours:			
Personal Care			5.00
Domestic Care	7.50	3.00	6.00
Housing Support		2.00	
Housing Support			4.00
Total Hours	7.50	5.00	15.00
Cost of Chargeable Hours = total hours x £14.24 (current hourly rate)	£106.80	£71.20	£213.60
Income:			
DWP Benefits	£137.35	£174.05	£74.10
Occupational Pension	£50.00	£75.00	
AA / DLA Care Component	£73.60	£147.20	£49.30
Earnings			£65.00
Gross Income	£260.95	£396.25	£188.40
Less: Threshold	£161.00	£245.00	£113.00
Less: DLA Care Component disregard	£24.30		
Less: Earnings Disregard			£20.00
= Income to which charge can be applied	£75.65	£151.25	£55.40
X the Rate per £	£0.75	£0.75	£0.75
= Charge based on Financial Assessment	£56.74	£113.44	£41.55
ACTUAL CHARGE APPLIED <i>(lower of the cost of the chargeable services and outcome of the financial assessment)</i>	£56.74	£71.20	£41.55