



Paying for Supporting People services

If you are living in long term accommodation that provides support, your landlord / support provider will charge you for that support.

This applies to all sheltered housing for older people and also to other forms of accommodation where there is no time limit on how long you can stay. (If you are not sure whether you are being charged for your support service, check with your landlord / support provider.)

Your support provider will collect any charge that you are due to pay. These arrangements will probably be written down in your tenancy agreement.

How do I apply for assistance?

If you need help in meeting the support charge you will need to apply to Dorset County Council for Supporting People Subsidy. (This is as well as applying to your local council for Housing Benefit). Your landlord / support provider will give you an application form for applying for Supporting People Subsidy, or you can request a form by contacting the Supporting People Team on 01305 225902.

Once we've received your Supporting People Subsidy application form we will work out how much, if anything, you will need to pay for your support service. This factsheet explains how we do that.

People who do not have to pay for Supporting People services

You will not have to pay anything (Dorset County Council will pay your landlord the full amount) if you are receiving Housing Benefit Please note that you will still need to send in an application form even if you are receiving Housing Benefit. This is because we need your permission to check with Housing Benefits.

If you are not receiving Housing Benefit, but you still feel you need help in meeting your support charge, you will need to provide us



with full details of your financial situation on the Application Form (using the two central pages). This will enable us to carry out a full financial assessment. Your landlord / support provider may help you to complete the form if you wish. Or, if you prefer, you can request a home visit from a Financial Assessment and Benefit (FAB) Officer to assist you with the form. As well as assisting you to complete the application form, the visiting officer will be able to ensure that you are receiving all the benefits that you are entitled to.

What we will need to see

When you apply for a financial assessment you will need to provide the following information, either showing it to the visiting officer or sending a copy of it with your application:

Income

- Post Office Card account statement, bank statement or letter from the Department for Work and Pensions giving details of all the benefits you receive e.g. Incapacity Benefit, Retirement Pension, Income Support, Pension Credit, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance
- Notification of any private pension or annuity
- Details of any other income you may have

Savings

- Bank Statements
- Building Society Books
- National Savings Books
- Premium Bonds and National Savings Certificates
- Stock and Share Certificates
- Details of endowment insurance policies
- The value of land or property (other than your own home)
- Details of any other savings and investments

Calculating your charge

The government has set a figure called 'disposable income' and if your income is below 'disposable income' you will not have to pay for Supporting People services. This figure called 'disposable income' is based on basic Income Support including age and disability premium plus an extra 25% (one-quarter). This does not



include Severe Disability premium, Attendance Allowance and Disability Living Allowance.

The *current basic rates are: £

Single person aged under 60	126.69
Single person aged over 60	178.38
Couple aged under 60	193.38
Couple aged over 60	272.38

(*rates at April 2012 - these rates may be higher if you are entitled to additional premiums)

Income

This will include state benefits, any private or occupational pension, income from an insurance policy, income from a sub let, maintenance received from an ex partner, or income from an annuity. Your earnings, Disabled Persons Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit are not taken into account.

Capital/Savings

If you have savings over £23,250 you will need to pay the full support charge to your landlord / support provider.

Any capital below £14,250 is ignored. For every £250 or part thereof above £14,250 we will assume an income of £1 per week.

E.g. If you had savings of £16,000 we would ignore the first £14,250 leaving £1,750. There are 7 amounts of £250 in £1,750 so £7 per week will be added to your income.

Allowances and Disregards

These include:

- Basic Income Support plus 25%
- 25% of the lower rate of Attendance Allowance or middle rate of Disability Living Allowance Care Component is disregarded to cover basic disability related expenditure. *The night time element of AA or DLA is disregarded.
- Mobility Allowance/Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance - this will be disregarded in full.



- Mortgage payments/rent - any amounts not paid for through Income Support or Housing Benefit will be allowed as expenditure.
- Council Tax - any amounts not paid for through Council Tax Benefit will be allowed as expenditure.
- War Disability and War Widows Pensions - the first £10 per week will be disregarded.
- War Widows Special payments - will be disregarded in full.
- Water rates (metered only) - any amounts paid above the current standard rates for a single person or a couple will be allowed as expenditure.
- Allowances can be allowed for excessive heating costs dependent on type of property.

*Disability Related Expenditure

25% of any disability benefits that you may receive e.g. Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance care component is disregarded to cover basic disability related expenditure e.g. window cleaning or gardening costs.

If you have increased expenditure because of your disability these costs can be taken into account.

The types of expenditure that can qualify are:

- Community alarm systems
- Laundry costs, bedding or clothing through incontinence
- Wear and tear of clothing due to disability
- Specialist disability equipment
- Exceptional transport costs

You will be asked to provide proof of this expenditure and any other costs that you may feel that you have above what you would normally expect to pay.

How much will you have to pay?

This depends on:

1. The amount we have worked out as your Disposable Income and
2. The level of your support charge. If your Disposable Income is more than your support charge, you will not be entitled to any



Supporting People Subsidy – in other words, you will need to pay the full support charge to your landlord / support provider. If your Disposable Income is less than the support charge, you will have to pay your landlord the amount of your disposable income – Dorset County Council will pay the rest.

These examples will help to show what this means:

Example 1

Your support charge	£25 per week
Your Disposable Income	£30 per week

Your support charge is lower than your Disposable Income – therefore you pay the full £25 per week

Example 2

Your support charge	£25 per week
Your Disposable Income	£10 per week

Your support charge is higher than your Disposable Income – therefore you pay £10 (the amount of your Disposable Income) and the County Council pays your landlord the other £15.

What will I have to pay if I also receive home care services?

If you receive home care services as well as supporting people services you will have one financial assessment to work out your disposable income. This assessment will ensure that you are left with the amount laid down by government. You will not be asked to pay more than your 'disposable income'.

Notifying you of your charge

You will be notified of how much you have to pay your landlord / support provider in writing, showing you how it has been worked out. If you feel that there is a mistake on the assessment you can ask to have the amount you have to pay reviewed. A Manager of Adult and Community Services will carry this out within 3 weeks of your request and you will be given the decision in writing. If you are still not satisfied you can then use the official Complaints Procedure, a copy of which can be obtained from the Supporting People or Finance teams.



Compliments and complaints

Adult and Community Services staff in Dorset are committed to providing quality services to our service users, their carers and families. We welcome comments from our service users as this helps us to understand what aspects of our service people like.

If you are unhappy about the service you have received and want to make a complaint, our factsheet 'How to complain' describes the procedure. Our Complaints Officer can give you advice on the process and can be contacted on 01305 228563.

Diversity statement

Diversity is not about treating everyone in the same way, but about recognising and valuing difference, as well as recognising and addressing inequalities and disadvantage.

As an employer and service provider, Dorset County Council seeks to promote an environment that accepts and actively supports diversity in age, gender, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, religious belief, disability, culture, work style and the many other ways in which people differ from each other.

All our factsheets are available in large print and on audio cassette/CD, Braille, Easy to Read or alternative languages. Please contact the Information Office on 01305 224320.

Further information on services provided by Dorset County Council Adult and Community Services can be accessed at www.dorsetforyou.com

