



Paying for Long Term Residential Care in Cumbria

About this factsheet

This factsheet is for people living in Cumbria who need to know about paying for care and support in a residential setting and who cannot afford the fees themselves. It is also for carers, family and friends who help look after other people.

It sets out briefly how we have to consider a person's financial resources so that we can calculate how much they will contribute towards the cost of their care and support and how much Cumbria County Council will contribute.

When will I have a financial assessment?

A Community Finance Officer (CFO) will contact you or your financial representative as soon as you have been assessed to need care and support in a residential setting. The CFO will arrange to meet you or your financial representative. You can invite a relative, friend or advocate to be there with you or you can nominate a representative to do this on your behalf. We will always request your consent before speaking with someone who cannot prove that they have authority to act on your behalf – for example as an Enduring Power of Attorney or Lasting Power of Attorney.

What happens at the Meeting?

The CFO will ask questions about your finances and will need to know about your income, savings and property. They will verify this information by checking bank statements and other financial documents. The CFO will also need to know about any jointly held savings you have, for example, in a joint bank account. We can only take into account the share belonging to the person needing care and support.

Types of income you may have include pensions such as: State/Retirement Pension; Pension Credit; Occupational/Works/Private Pension; Personal Independence Payment (PIP); Attendance Allowance; Disability Living Allowance; Incapacity Benefit; Employment & Support Allowance; Income Support; Severe Disablement Allowance. Savings, including savings in a bank or building society, post office savings, premium bonds, shares, trust funds, ISAs/PEPs.

Types of expenses you may have include for example, mortgage payments, rent, buildings insurance, water rates, council tax.

The CFO will advise about any welfare benefits you are entitled to and help you contact the Department of Work & Pensions for help with this.

The CFO will record your information on paper or electronic form which you can check before signing. Depending on the complexity of your financial circumstances, the CFO may be able to give you some indication of your contribution towards your residential care during the meeting. If not, you will be informed as soon as possible afterwards. You will always receive confirmation in writing of your assessed contribution and how this has been calculated. The CFO will be able to follow up with a further visit or telephone call if all of your questions cannot be answered at the first visit.

Capital Limits

We will not take into account any savings you have below £14,250*. If you have savings of more than £23,250*, you will have to pay the full cost of your residential care up to the limit set by Cumbria County Council (see our Schedule of Charges for this). If you have savings between these amounts, we apply a tariff income of £1 per week for every £250 between the two amounts.

*These figures are set by the Department of Health and can change annually.

Top Ups or Third Party Contributions

If you choose a more expensive care setting than the maximum price that Cumbria County Council will pay (see Schedule of Charges), you may be able to arrange to pay the top up yourself or ask another person to make a third party contribution. To do this you or the person paying the top up must be willing and able to meet the additional cost and must enter into an agreement with the Council to meet that cost. See our factsheet on Third Party Top-Ups for more information.

Property

Property must be disregarded in the financial assessment in certain circumstances, for example, where the customer no longer occupies the property but it is occupied by a spouse or partner.

If you have savings below £23,250 and own your own home, the Council will help fund your accommodation for 12 weeks to give you time to make decisions about what to do with your property.

After 12 weeks, you will be charged the full cost of your residential care. However, the amount due from the value of your property may be deferred until a later date by taking out a Deferred Payment Agreement. This can delay the need to sell your home until a later date. A deferral can last until you die, however many people choose to use a deferred payment agreement as a 'bridging loan' to give them time and flexibility to sell their home when they choose to do so. This is entirely up to you to decide. There are costs to set up a Deferred Payment Agreement and interest is added 4-weekly to the deferred amount. Please see our separate factsheet on Deferred Payment Agreements for more details.

Deprivation of Assets

This is when a person has deliberately deprived themselves of, or decreased their overall assets (for example, by giving away large sums of money or transferring property ownership) in order to reduce the amount they are charged towards their local authority arranged care. Being able to spend income and assets as a person sees fit is important for promoting wellbeing and enabling a fulfilling and independent life. However, it is also important that people pay their fair contribution towards their care and support costs. In cases where the council considers there was an intent to deprive to avoid charges, it may charge the person as if they still possessed the asset or if the asset has been transferred, seek to recover the lost income from the person who received the asset.

Allowances

We will always make sure a spouse or partner, who is staying at home, has enough money to meet their home commitments.

A person in residential care must be left with a minimum amount of income, after their financial contribution to residential care, so that they have enough money to spend on personal items such as clothes and other items which are not part of their care. This is called a Personal Expenses Allowance (PEA) and the amount is set annually by the Department of Health. From 6 April 2015 the weekly PEA is £24.90.

Going into Hospital

Should you need to go into hospital during your permanent residential care, you will still have to pay your assessed contribution as the council will still be paying the fees to the residential care home.

Paying your Assessed Contribution

You (or your financial representative) will be sent a 4-weekly statement for the amount due. You can pay 4-weekly by Direct Debit, Standing Order or cheque. Where a customer fails to pay their contribution, the Council will pursue enforcement action to recover the amount owing. See our factsheet on Debt Recovery for more information.

Independent Financial Advice and Information

When making decisions about paying for your care and support, you may wish to consider seeking impartial and independent financial information and advice. This can help you make sure you make best use of your financial resources and can plan for the costs of your care and support now and in the future. We have a factsheet called 'Where can I get financial advice about paying for care' which lists some sources of financial information and advice. You can also find this information on our website at

www.cumbria.gov.uk/careact/

How to contact Adult Social Care:

If you live in **Allerdale** borough area, call:

Allerdale

0300 303 3589

Or you can email

workingtonssd@cumbria.gov.uk

If you live in the **Carlisle** city are, call:

Carlisle

0300 303 3249

Or you can email

carlislessd@cumbria.gov.uk

If you live in the **Copeland** borough area, call:

Copeland

0300 303 3589

Or you can email

whitehavenssd@cumbria.gov.uk

If you live in the **Eden** district area, call:

Eden

0300 303 3249

Or you can email

penrithssd@cumbria.gov.uk

If you live in the **Furness** area, call:

Furness

0300 303 2704

Or you can email

barrowssd@cumbria.gov.uk

If you live in the **South Lakeland** district area, call:

South Lakes

0300 303 2704

Or you can email

kendalssd@cumbria.gov.uk

If you have an **emergency** during office hours, contact your practitioner or your local Adult Social Care office. We are open 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Thursday and 9.00am to 4.30pm on Friday.

If you have an emergency when our offices are closed, ring our Emergency Duty Team on 01228 526690. They cover the whole of Cumbria and work overnight, at weekends and bank holidays.

November 2018