

Royal Borough of Greenwich Changes to Adult Social Care Charging

In January 2020, the Royal Borough of Greenwich Cabinet agreed changes to the charges for social care and support services, as well as the Telecare service. Below is a summary of the changes.

Homecare: Currently the charge for Homecare is based on a subsidised rate of £13.35 an hour. From September, charges will be based on the actual hourly cost up to £15 an hour. From April 2021, charges will be based on the full hourly cost. You will only pay up to the amount your financial assessment says you can afford to pay.

Self-Funder Arrangement Fee: If you have over £23,250 in savings or assets, and you ask RBG to arrange non-residential care for you, you will pay a small weekly administration fee to cover the Council's costs for arranging, administering and quality checking the service.

Charging for "Client support": The Council did not charge for some support provided in the community such as additional support to attend daytime activities. Client Support will now be chargeable in the same way as Homecare.

Higher /enhanced disability benefits: If you receive the higher rate of Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment, we previously disregarded the top £29.45 of this income in your financial assessment. From September, £14.72 of this benefit will be included as income during your financial assessment which may mean your charges will increase.

Community Meals: The Council will be stopping meal delivery. There are a lot of other providers. If you use Community meals, we will write to you separately well before we plan to stop, and we will support you to set up an arrangement with another provider.

Supported Living Accommodation: If you are a tenant in Supported Living Accommodation you don't currently pay charges on care you get in your accommodation. From September, you will be charged for your share of care hours provided in the home. We will explain this more to people who are affected.

Income Tariff: If you had your first financial assessment more than six years ago and have savings over £14,250, your savings and income will be assessed in line with the Care Act as we have done since 2014. This affects a very few people, and if it applies to you, we will write to you separately.

Removal of Cap on Weekly Costs: Charges for care at home were capped at £546.55 per week. From September the cap is removed. If you have a care package costing more than this, you will pay more if you can afford it.

Disability Related Expenditure These are extra regular expenses people face due to disability or illness. If you pay for your care and get Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment you can get a reduction of your charge to enable you to manage these expenses. There is a flat rate exemption (currently £15.30). From September this will go down to £10 per week if you get the standard, middle or lower rate of these benefits. If your expenses are higher than the flat rate, you can claim a larger exemption– please see the form enclosed.

Telecare If you use the Telecare community alarm and claim Housing Benefit to help with your rent, you have so far not been charged for the Telecare service. From September you will be charged (£6 per week this year).