

Disability-Related Expenditure (DRE)

Your Questions Answered

Q What is Disability-Related Expenditure (DRE)?

A The Department of Health defines this as “Any reasonable additional cost that the individual incurs due to a disability or condition”.

Q Why would I want to claim DRE?

A Because it might reduce the amount you have to pay towards the cost of your social care services. The Council has to take account of any extra costs or expenses you may have, which occur solely because of your health condition or disability, when they work out how much you have to pay towards your social care services or individual budget.

Q Can everyone claim DRE?

A Yes. Many users claim for a small number of items to support independent living and an allowance for reasonable expenditure will normally be allowed

Q What can I claim for?

A The extra cost of any need identified in your social care assessment, which is not already provided for in your care plan or individual budget and is not paid for by some other kind of public funding e.g., Supporting People, Social Fund, Continuing Health Care Fund.

The cost has to be reasonable. The Council can allow less DRE than you ask for if the item or service is available elsewhere at a lower cost.

Q Can you give some examples of things I might claim for?

A There isn't an exclusive list of items or services that can be claimed for as each individual is different and their assessed, additional needs will also be different. However, some examples include:

- excessive laundry costs e.g. because of incontinence problems
- above average heating costs caused by illness or disability
- special equipment purchased or rented e.g. special chairs, stairlifts
- privately arranged personal or domestic help
- special diet – but only if the cost exceeds normal food expenditure
- community alarm costs
- gardening maintenance costs – but only to keep it to a basic, safe standard and only if there's no-one else who could be expected to do it

For Example – Heating Allowance calculations - when annual fuel costs exceed the annual figure in the applicable section of the table below.

Figures for 2023/2024	Standard	N East / E Midlands	N West / W Midlands
Single person - Flat/Terrace	£2,761.73	£2,993.70	£3,344.04
Couple – Flat/Terrace	£3,643.68	£3,945.69	£4,407.21
Single person – Semi Detached	£2,933.32	£3,179.73	£3,551.87
Couples – Semi Detached	£3,872.45	£4,187.41	£4,677.83
Single – Detached	£3,568.76	£3,865.99	£4,325.05
Couples – Detached	£4,704.40	£5,097.22	£5,695.07

Q Are there things I cannot claim for?

A Yes. Again, there isn't an exclusive list, but some examples include:

- anything considered to be every day living costs e.g. food, clothing, water rates, tv/cable/satellite payments, telephone etc
- holidays (if you need a carer with you then we *may* allow some costs)
- structural or landscaping work (there are exceptions to this)

Q Will you ask me for evidence to confirm the extra costs?

A Yes. We may ask you to provide receipts, bills, bank statements or other evidence that will help us confirm the additional expenses you have. If you don't have the evidence available immediately, we may allow DRE for a short period of time until the information is available.

Before we ask you for this information, we will check your social care needs assessment to ensure the needs you tell us about have been agreed by your social worker. We will also check your care/support plan to ensure we are not already allowing for this cost in your individual budget or social care provision.

Q Will you allow the full cost of my DRE?

A We will allow *reasonable* costs. If it is considered the service or item is available cheaper elsewhere then the Council may allow less than the amount you've requested. The Council also has standard rates for some items e.g. laundry costs, wheelchair costs, so will only allow the standard amount in those cases.

Q What if I don't agree with the amount of DRE you've allowed me?

A You can ask us to review our decision. You can do this in writing, by telephone or by email.

Write to us at: Client Finance,
Level 4 Civic Centre
West Street, Oldham
OL1 1UL

Telephone us on: 0161 770 1520

Email us at: Client.finance@oldham.gov.uk