



Community Care

Fact Sheet No.6

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Brighton & Hove
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Introduction

Sometimes it can be challenging for unpaid carers to get the information, advice and support that they need to help them in their caring role.

This Fact Sheet gives an overview of community care services in Brighton and Hove. It includes information on:

- Adult Social Care services for people in need of care and support
- The Carers Hub, which provides advice and support for unpaid carers
- The Carer's Assessment
- Council Charges for Community Based Care Services
- Council Charges for Residential and Nursing Home Care
- The local Care and Support Services Directory 2023/24.

Adult Social Care

Adult Social Care (ASC), Brighton and Hove City Council provides services to people in the City in need of care and support. Help can be given to people with a physical disability, mental health condition or illness. If you think you need advice and help in this regard you should contact ASC as follows:

Tel: 01273 295555

Email: accesspoint@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Address: Adult Social Care, Access Point, 2nd Floor, Bartholomew House, Bartholomew Square, Brighton BN1 1JE.

You can also get advice and help and apply for an Adult Social Care needs assessment online through the website www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/adult-social-care

Needs Assessment

ASC will carry out an assessment of the person who may be in need of care and support regardless of their financial status or whether ASC thinks their needs will be eligible. The assessment can take place by telephone, by email or in person. It will identify care and support needs. With permission ASC will also contact any professional supporting the person concerned.

A Council leaflet "Eligibility for Adult Social Care Services" provides further information in this regard. This publication can be downloaded from the Council's website www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/adult-social-care or obtained from the Access Point.

If a person is eligible for services, ASC will put together a support plan. Eligible needs will be reviewed on a yearly basis. If a person is not eligible for services an explanation will be provided.

If the person can get support from ASC, the person will then need to have a financial assessment to see if help towards the cost of the care can be provided – see Page 3.

The Carers Hub

The Carers Hub is an initial point of contact to help unpaid carers get the information, advice and support that they need. This can include a carer's assessment (see below). Also regular coffee mornings for carers are held at various locations.

You can contact the Carers Hub as follows:

Tel: 01273 977000

Email: info@carershub.co.uk

Website: www.carershub.co.uk

The City Council has produced a leaflet entitled "Do you look after someone?" about support for carers and the services of the Carers Hub. This can be downloaded from the Council's website www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/adult-social-care/care-and-support-adults/do-you-look-after-someone-booklet

The Carer's Assessment

A carer's assessment is a useful first step for carers to help them to understand their situation, the needs they may have and the services available to them.

The assessment is a discussion between the carer and one of the Hub's Carer Support Workers to look at how the caring role affects their life. This includes their physical, mental and emotional needs. The assessment is usually carried out over the telephone and takes 20 to 30 minutes. However, if appropriate, a face-to-face assessment can be arranged. An information pack with a checklist for preparing for the assessment will be sent to the carer prior to the assessment.

If you would like an assessment contact the Carers Hub by telephone or email or complete a self-referral form to the Hub online – see above for contact details.

Charges for Community Based Care Services

The Council charges for care and support services and most people will pay some money towards the cost of their care.

The Financial Assessment

If a person is eligible for care services the person will be offered a financial assessment to work out the maximum weekly amount to pay towards their care. Full and accurate details of the person's finances must be provided for this. The assessment covers such areas as home care, day care, community support/outreach services, money management, home adaptations over £1,000 and supported accommodation.

People with savings and capital over £23,250 will pay the full cost for their care services. If a person has eligible care needs and has less than £23,250 in savings and capital, the person may have to pay a charge equal to part or all of the cost of care but this will depend on circumstances. The assessed charge will apply from the start date of care provision.

The Council considers the following when working out how much the person will pay:

- The level and type of care needed
- The person's capital/savings. Total capital between £14,250 and £23,250 is included in the calculation. Some capital is disregarded such as personal injury trusts
- Investments and property - the value of the person's main residence will not be taken into account. If the person owns or has a share in any other property, the value will usually be counted towards total savings
- The person's income from pensions and benefits - almost all income is considered as part of the financial assessment, including most state benefits. Employment earnings, mobility allowances and war pensions are disregarded
- Housing costs - certain housing costs, like rent, council tax, and water rates are included
- Disability costs – the Council will ask for any expenditure that particularly relates to a person's disability to be listed and this will be assessed when calculating the amount of the charge. Evidence of this expenditure may be required. This is called disability-related expenses
- A set living allowance of £229 per week (£175 per week for one of a couple)

Taking all the above into consideration, the Council will use the information provided to calculate the person's contribution. The person will receive written confirmation of the assessed charge to pay.

Assessment for Couples

Couples will be assessed on their own resources including 50% of joint accounts and any beneficial interest in savings held by the partner or other persons. If there is evidence of a different percentage share this will be considered.

Where state benefits are paid at the couple rate consideration is given to both partners' financial position. Financial assessments will usually reference all income, savings and expenditure of the household and half of a couple's eligible household expenditure will usually be allowed.

In certain circumstances the council provides services. Payment for these services is dependent on the outcome of the financial assessment but

- managed home care is charged at £32 per hour for each carer
- managed day care is charged at £48 per day.

There is an additional fixed charge for funded transport at £4.90 per return journey.

If you think that an assessed charge for care services has been incorrectly calculated you have the right to appeal to the Financial Assessment Team, Community Services – for details see Page 6.

Charges for Residential and Nursing Home Care

Residential and nursing home care is expensive. All residents of rest homes and nursing homes will be required to pay at least a minimum charge and the amount a person will pay will depend on circumstances.

Financial Assessment

The Council works out how much the person will pay by carrying out a financial assessment. It is important to give full and accurate details of the person's finances in the statement required for this so that a fair charge can be made. This is called the 'client contribution'.

The Council takes the following into account for the assessment:

Capital

- If the person has over £23,250 in savings and assets (capital) he/she will pay the full cost of their care (this includes any deferred pension savings).
- If the person has less than £23,250 in savings and assets (capital) then the financial assessment will decide how much he/she can afford to pay.
- If the person owns their own home, the value will be taken into account after 12 weeks of moving permanently to a care home. It will not be included if receiving short-term or respite care or if a spouse or partner lives there.
- If the person owns a second property, the value will be assessed from when he/she moves into the care home.

Income

- all benefits the person receives e.g. Pension Credit; Income Support; Employment and Support Allowance; Incapacity Benefit; Universal Credit, Industrial Injuries Benefit; Personal Independence Payment (daily living component), Disability Living Allowance (care component) and Attendance Allowance.
 - pensions: State Retirement, war widow & widower, superannuation and other private pensions, including deferred pension income.
 - rental income
 - annuities and trust income
 - any other available income
- Note: War Pensions and Earnings are not included.

Allowances and Deductions

All nursing or care homes residents can keep a personal allowance of £30.15 per week. A further £10 is disregarded for people in receipt of war widow or widower pensions. A Savings Credit Allowance of up to £6.95 per week may also apply.

Additional things may be considered as part of the financial assessment. For example, if any savings or property has been transferred to someone else prior to needing residential or nursing home care, it may still be taken into consideration.

Checks should also be made with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to ensure that the person is receiving all the benefits to which he/she is entitled. See our Fact Sheet No 4 - Benefits for Carers (and those they care for) for further information and contact details.

If assistance with completing the financial statement for the assessment is required contact should be made with the Council's Financial Assessment Team, Residential Services - for details see below.

Taking all the above into consideration, the Council will use the information provided to calculate the person's contribution. A written confirmation of the charge will then be received. If you feel the charge has been incorrectly calculated, you have the right to appeal. Send details of the appeal to the Council's Financial Assessment Team, Residential Services – for details see below.

Financial assessments are normally reviewed each year to take account of increases in benefits and any other changes in the person's financial circumstances.

Further advice about charges for community based services or residential and nursing home care can be obtained from:

Financial Assessment Team
Adult Social Care
Brighton & Hove City Council
2nd Floor, Bartholomew House
Bartholomew Square
Brighton BN1 1JE

Community Services
Tel: 01273 295662
Email: ASC.NonResidential@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Residential Services
Tel: 01273 295660
Email: ASCIncomesSection@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Care and Support Services Directory 2023/24

The East Sussex and Brighton and Hove Care and Support Services Directory 2023/24 published by Care Choices Ltd is an important source of information on community care and support services available. It includes advice on helping to stay independent,

specialist care and support services, services for carers, assessing care needs and choosing home care providers and residential care homes.

It also lists home care providers, care homes and nursing homes in Brighton and Hove registered with the regulatory body, the Care Quality Commission. The specific types of services provided by these e.g. for older people, people with dementia, people with physical disability, people with mental health conditions are specified.

The Directory can be viewed or downloaded from the website www.carechoices.co.uk
A hard copy can usually be obtained from the Carers Hub or from the Adult Social Care Access Point.

Contact details for the publisher Care Choices Ltd are:

Address: Valley Court, Lower Road, Croydon, Nr Royston, Hertfordshire SG8 0HF

Tel: 01223 207770