



**STOCKPORT**  
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

# Disability Related Expenditure FAQs 2026/2027

Adult Social Care



Ambitious Stockport, creating opportunities *for everyone*



## Introduction

People in England receiving adult social care services will be expected to contribute towards the cost of their care. Following your Care Act assessment/review, if you are eligible for services we will ask you to complete a financial assessment to determine how much you may need to pay.

Under the Care Act 2014, Stockport Council must ensure that you are not asked to pay more than you can reasonably afford while still meeting any essential day-to-day costs linked to a disability or long-term health condition. These additional costs are known as Disability Related Expenditure (DRE).

DRE only applies to non-residential care (also known as *care in the community*). It helps make sure you are left with enough money to cover reasonable, disability-related expenses that are not provided by Stockport Council.

This FAQ guide explains what DRE is, the types of expenses we may be able to consider, the evidence you may need to provide, and what to do if you would like us to review a decision.

### Q. What is Disability Related Expenditure?

**A.** Disability Related Expenditure refers to extra costs you have because of a disability or long-term health condition. These are costs that are **not met by Stockport Council** but are necessary for your daily living and wellbeing.

DRE is **not a list of every expense** a disabled person may have, it only includes costs that are directly linked to your disability and are **reasonable, essential, and unavoidable**.

When we complete your non-residential financial assessment, we include an expense to ensure you have enough money to cover these disability-related costs. Stockport Council automatically allows a standard DRE amount of £16.70 per week if your capital is below £23,250. You do not need to provide any evidence to receive this standard amount.

### Q. What if my weekly Disability Related Expenditure exceeds £16.70 per week?

**A.** If your disability-related costs are higher than the standard £16.70 per week, you can ask us to consider these extra costs as a further expense. This is known as **Additional Disability Related Expenditure**.

To consider these extra costs, you will need to provide our assessment team with evidence of these additional disability related expenses, so we have a full and complete picture of your personal circumstances.

## Q. What can be included as Additional Disability Related Expenditure?

**A.** There is no fixed list of disability related expenses as everyone has different needs based on their personal circumstances. We look at each request individually. To be included, an expense must be:

- **Essential** for your wellbeing and quality of life.
- **Directly linked** to your disability or long-term health condition.
- **Not already covered** by another expense in your financial assessment.
- **Not provided** by Stockport Council as part of your care and support.

Some common examples of Additional Disability Related Expenditure include:

- Extra washing or special washing powder/conditioner for delicate skin.
- Community alarms (pendant or wrist).
- Special dietary requirements.
- Medical or sanitary products such as incontinence pads.
- Chiropody.
- Private gardening or cleaning costs.
- The cost of specialist equipment such as Wheelchairs or Mobility Scooters. *The weekly cost of these items will be averaged over the expected life span of the item.*

## Q. Can gas & electricity costs be considered as Additional Disability Related Expenditure?

**A.** Yes, gas and electricity costs can be considered as Additional Disability Related Expenditure if your actual weekly spend is higher than the average amount for similar households.

These averages come from the **Office for National Statistics (ONS)** and show the yearly average household cost for these utilities based on property and household size.

Figures for 2026/2027	Annual Average	Weekly Cost
Single Person – Flat/Terrace	£2026.47	£38.97
Couple – Flat/Terrace	£2673.61	£51.42
Single Person – Semi Detached	£2152.38	£41.39
Couples – Semi Detached	£2841.48	£54.64
Single – Detached	£2618.63	£50.36
Couples - Detached	£3451.93	£66.38

If your weekly spend is higher than the averages above, we will allow the difference as Disability Related Expenditure. If you share the expense with another adult, we will usually divide the cost proportionally.

## Example

Mary has a care package in place to support her in her own home. She lives alone in a terraced house.

She has already provided evidence of other disability-related expenses totalling more than £16.70 a week, so she also asks us to consider her fuel costs.

Her actual gas & electricity spend is £50.00 per week (taken from her bills/bank statements).

From the ONS averages table, the weekly average for a Single Person – Flat/Terrace is £38.97.

Actual Spend	£50.00
Minus Average Spend	-£38.97
<b>Total</b>	<b>£11.03</b>

Because Mary’s energy use is higher than the average for someone living alone in a terraced property, we would allow **£11.03 per week** as Additional Disability Related Expenditure on top of her existing DRE.

## Q. Can travel costs be considered as Additional Disability Related Expenditure?

**A.** Travel costs can be considered in some circumstances, but we would generally expect most day-to-day disability-related travel costs to be met through the mobility component of Personal Independence Payment (PIP), which is *not* included as income in financial assessments.

However, if your travel costs exceed your PIP mobility award, or you are not in receipt of PIP mobility, and those costs are directly linked to your disability or long-term health condition we may be able to consider them as Additional Disability Related Expenditure. Examples may include:

- Travel to essential medical appointments where public transport is not suitable.
- Regular journeys linked to your disability that create additional costs beyond typical mobility needs.

## Q. Does every expense I have count as Disability Related Expenditure?

**A.** No. Most ordinary day-to-day living expenses are not treated as Disability Related Expenditure.

For people receiving non-residential care, their financial assessment will already include an allowance to meet normal day-to-day living costs. This is called the Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG), sometimes known as the age-related allowance and is set by central government each year.

The MIG is designed to cover the cost of ordinary expenses such as:

- Food and groceries
- Clothing and footwear
- Toiletries
- Mobile phone or broadband
- TV Licence
- Standard utility usage
- Transport and petrol costs for normal day-to-day activities
- Subscription services (e.g. Netflix, Spotify) and gaming and entertainment items

Because these costs are already covered within the MIG, they would **not** usually be considered Disability Related Expenditure.

This means you should only send evidence for costs that specifically arise because of your disability or long-term health condition, **not** general living expenses.

If you feel a day-to-day living cost is higher **because of your disability**, please let us know and explain the reasons so we can consider it properly.

## Q. What evidence do I need to provide?

**A.** We need proof to show that the expense is **ongoing, consistent, and directly linked to your disability** before we can consider including it in your financial assessment. You can provide evidence in several forms, such as:

- Bank Statements
- Invoices
- Receipts

In addition, a brief description **of how the expense relates to your disability or health condition** can help us understand your personal circumstances and review your expenses more accurately.

For ongoing expenses, we ideally ask for evidence to show 3 months of consecutive payments to show that the cost is regular.

For one-off purchases (for example, buying a wheelchair or specialist equipment), a single invoice, receipt, or bank statement is enough.

Photos or screenshots of the evidence are usually acceptable.

If you are struggling to provide evidence or are unsure what to send, please contact us to discuss this further.

## Q. How can I provide Stockport Council with evidence of my Additional Disability Related Expenditure?

**A.** You can submit evidence to our assessment team in several ways:

### 1. Online (quickest option)

When completing our online Financial Assessment Form, you can upload your documents in Section 4 (Your Personal Details). These will be linked directly to the financial information you submit. If your file size is too large to upload, you can email the documents to us instead.

## 2. By email

[socialcare.charging@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:socialcare.charging@stockport.gov.uk)

## 3. By post

Social Care Charging Section  
Stopford House  
Piccadilly  
Stockport  
SK1 3XE

Please remember to include your name and date of birth so we can match the evidence to your account.

Photos or screenshots of evidence are usually acceptable.

### Q. I have submitted my evidence, what happens next?

**A.** Once you submit your evidence, it will be reviewed by our assessment team. We will look at:

- The evidence you have provided.
- The information in your Care Plan, including your assessed needs and how your disability affects your daily living.

This helps us understand your full circumstances and decide whether the expenses you've submitted are reasonable, necessary, and directly linked to your disability.

After we complete the review, we will send you a new assessment letter. This will include:

- A breakdown of which expenses we have allowed.
- Any expenses we have not allowed.
- An explanation of the reasons behind our decision.

If we need more information to make a fair decision, we may contact you before finalising your assessment.

## Q. Will Disability Related Expenditure be backdated in my financial assessment?

**A.** Backdating is not automatic. It depends on the evidence you provide for the period you want us to consider. We may backdate agreed Disability Related Expenditure to the date the expense started, provided you supply evidence for that period. If evidence covers only part of the period, we'll base our decision on the evidence available.

Please make your backdating request as soon as possible and include the relevant dates and supporting evidence for the period you want us to consider.

We will always try to **work with you and be as flexible as possible** when reviewing your request.

## Q. What if my circumstances change and my Disability Related Expenditure increases or decreases?

**A.** It's important that you **let us know straight away** if anything in your financial circumstances changes, including your income, benefits, or any expenses we have included in your assessment. This helps make sure that the amount you are asked to contribute remains fair and accurate.

If your Disability Related Expenditure increases or decreases, you are welcome to submit new evidence to us at any time. An assessment officer will review the information and write to you with the outcome.

We may also request updated evidence from time to time to confirm that an expense is still ongoing and at the same level.

## Q. I disagree with the Additional Disability Related Expenditure you have included in my assessment.

**A.** Everyone who receives a non-residential service has the right to ask for a review of their assessed charge. If you disagree with our decision, you (or someone acting on your behalf) can request a review at any time. When you contact us, please explain:

- **Why you disagree** with the decision we have made, and
- **Why you believe the expense should be included**, including how it meets the criteria for Disability Related Expenditure (i.e. why it is essential, reasonable, and directly linked to your disability or long-term health condition).

This helps us understand your concerns clearly and review your assessment fairly.

You can ask for a review by email, telephone, or post. **Email is usually the quickest and easiest option.**

### **Q. I have submitted a review or appeal request, what happens next?**

**A.** Once we receive your review or appeal request, it will be passed to our assessment team to consider in line with our reviews and appeals procedure. We will look at:

- The reasons you have given for disagreeing with the decision.
- Any additional information or evidence you have provided.
- Your Care Plan and any relevant details about your assessed needs.

This helps us make sure the decision is fair, accurate, and based on your full circumstances.

After the review is completed, we will contact you with the outcome and explain the reasons for our decision.

If you have any further questions, or would like a copy of this leaflet in an alternative format, please contact us:

**Tel:** 0161 474 4781 **Email:** [socialcare.charging@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:socialcare.charging@stockport.gov.uk)

You can also find more information on our website:  
[www.stockport.gov.uk/topic/paying-for-care](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/topic/paying-for-care)

Our approach to Disability Related Expenditure is based on the Department of Health's *Care and Support Statutory Guidance* issued under the Care Act 2014. All decisions about Disability Related Expenditure are made in line with the Care Act 2014, the Care and Support (Charging and Assessment of Resources) Regulations 2014, and the Care and Support Statutory Guidance.

Our full non-residential charging policy is available on our website, and you can contact us if you would like a printed or alternative-format copy.