



Community Care

Fact Sheet No.6

**Carers Centre for Brighton & Hove
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What is Community Care?

Community Care is the name given to all of the services provided by the Housing and City Support Directorate of Brighton and Hove Council. The Adult Social Care Directorate was previously called Social Services. This department provides services to people who need to have some extra help to continue living safely in the community. For instance, help can be provided to older people, or people with a physical, sensory or learning disability, or people with mental health problems, or people with substance misuse problems or people living with HIV/AIDS. Help is also provided to relatives and carers who are looking after these people at home.

What can be provided by Community Care?

If you need help in finding any of the services in the following list, and/or you need help paying for them, then Adult Social Care may be able to help.

This is not a complete list. Other services may be available, so please contact the "Access Point", tel. 01273 295555 or e-mail: accesspoint@brighton-hove.gov.uk or write to them at: 3rd Floor Barts House, Bartholomew's Square, BN1 1JP. They now deal with all requests for information on any council or non-council services, as well initial assessments over the phone. Except for users of the specialist services listed below, they can arrange simple services & home disability equipment there & then, and they have a Carers Centre worker who can provide initial support & advice to carers.

Specialist Services

HIV/AIDS Specialist Team – 267575
Homeless Team (Housing Advice Team) - 293111
Mental Health Team (Brighton) – 621984 ext. 3243
Mental Health Team (Hove) – 242041/621984
Mental health (over 65s) - 778383
Substance Misuse Service – 329099
Blue Disabled Car Badges – 296270
Out-of-Hours Emergencies – 07699 391462

Community Care Assessments

If you or your cared for person need a fuller assessment via a home visit, the Access Point will pass your details to a Community Care Assessment Team, depending on the category that best fits your need, for example, there is OPCAT (Older People's Community Assessment Team) for older people, and PDAT (Physical Disability Assessment Team) for people under 65 with any kind of physical disability. It is a requirement of the Community Care Act that this assessment is done in consultation with the person needing help and their carer (if one is involved).

The Adult Social Care Assessment Team will also look at the finances of the person needing help to see how much they can afford to pay towards any help they are offered. Adult Social Care may do a 'benefits check' to make sure all appropriate welfare benefits are being claimed. The partner or carer of a person having a Community Care assessment should not be asked for any details about their finances.

Once the assessment is done you and the person you care for may be offered a range of

services that Adult Social Care agree you need. Charges will be made for some services. If Adult Social Care do not agree that the person you look after needs help in the home or residential or nursing care (depending on what help you have asked for) you will not receive any help.

The Carer's Assessment

There is legislation which means that carers have the right to an assessment of their own needs as a carer. The Acts place a duty on Adult Social Care teams to take the Carer's Assessment into account when deciding what level of services to provide for the person you look after. In some circumstances services can be provided to help meet your needs as a carer. If your situation changes because there has been a change in the person you care for, you can request a re-assessment of the cared for person's needs and at the same time an assessment of your own needs.

The Assessment is your opportunity to tell Adult Social Care about the help you need. You might find it useful if you prepare for the social worker or assessor's visit. One way to do this is to keep a diary for a week or a month to record the tasks you do, how you cope or feel about caring, and any particular difficulties which arise. You do not have to complete the assessment form yourself. It is the responsibility of the social worker/assessor to help you complete the form. Here is a guide to some topics you might discuss with the social worker:

About You

- How many hours a week do you care? (Remember to include everything you do, including washing and cleaning)
- Who else lives with you? Do they help you with caring?
- Is there anyone else who helps you with caring? – how?
- Do you have any health problems yourself? Do these affect your caring? – how?
- Does caring affect your health? – back problems, stress, anxiety, depression, lack of sleep?
- What other roles do you have apart from being a carer? – parent, child, partner, employee?
- How does caring affect these relationships and the relationship you have with the person you care for?
- Who gives you emotional support? Do you need more help with this?

Medication

- Do you have to be responsible for the person's medication eg reminding them to take it/giving it to them and making sure they swallow it?

Personal care

What personal care do you have to provide:

- Washing/showering/bathing?
- Dressing?
- Going to the toilet?
- Lifting?
- At night?
- Eating and drinking?

Housework

- What housework do you have to do (cooking, laundry, cleaning, shopping, managing finances)?
- Do you have any help with these?

Housing

- Do you live with the person you care for?
- What is access to and around the home like? How easy is it for the person to manage the stairs/get around the house/get in and out of the bath?
- Are there any particular difficulties with the house? What would make these easier to cope with eg special equipment?
- If you don't live with the person you care for, are there any difficulties around this? (eg you live a long way from them? You have other responsibilities which limit the time you can give?)

General

- What other tasks do you do for the person you care for?
- Can they be left on their own – or do you have to keep an eye on them?
- Do you have to provide emotional support?
- Do you have to take them to medical and social care appointments?
- Do you have a car? If not, what forms of transport are available?
- Do you have enough money to live on – or are finances tight?

You as a carer

- How is caring for you? Do you feel you have choices about your caring role?
- What would help you with caring?
- What parts of the caring role do you want to do (if any)?
- What do you find particularly difficult?
- What do you not want to do?

Employment

- Do you work? Part-time or full-time?
- What arrangements are made to care for the person while you are at work? Do you need extra help with this?
- How easy is it to take time off work in an emergency? Is there anyone else who can help in an emergency?
- If you don't work – would you like to?

Leisure

- Do you get any time for yourself? How often?
- Is there something you would like to do but can't because of your caring responsibilities?

Services for Children and Families

Children and Families Duty & Assessment Team – 296000

Children with Disabilities Team - 265825

Fostering and Adoption Team – 295444

Charges for Home Care and Day Care

The Social Care Directorate in Brighton and Hove will make a charge for the services they provide. The amount you pay will depend on how much you have in savings, and how much money you have coming in from benefits such as Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance.

The following is a guide to charges for home care and day care from April 2006.

The most you will be asked to pay is:

- **Home Care**
Including all forms of support at home £19 per hour for each carer – but this can be lower depending upon the amount charged by the service provider.
- **Day Care Centres**
£20 per day
Additional fixed rate charges for meals and transport where provided

Services that are excluded from charges are:

- Adaptations under £1,000
- Daily Living Equipment
- After Care services under Section 117 of the Mental Health Act
- Tenancy Support services, where tenants receive Housing Benefit
- Intermediate Care Services

The maximum weekly charge – for assessable services – is £750.00

People who have over £22,250 (£44,500 for a couple) will be liable for the full cost of all services subject to the maximum weekly amount of £750.00.

People who have income of less than £156.00 per week (£237 for a couple) will not usually have to pay – except for the fixed meals and transport charges.

All of the expenditure that relates to the disability will be taken into account when working out how much you need to pay, such as special diets, extra heating costs etc. They will ignore Mobility Allowance and any earned income. They will take into account all other income but if this amounts to less than £156 per week for a single person or £237 per week for a couple there will be no charge for the services provided.

Savings of over £13,500 (£27,000 for a couple) will be included in the assessment at the rate of £1 per week for every £250 – or part. The outcome of this calculation will be added to your total weekly income.

The calculation is done as follows:

- Add up all income – including any savings calculation
- Take away the fixed allowance of £156 or £237 per week
- Take away the assessed disability expenditure
- Take away housing costs, eg rent, mortgage, Council Tax, water
- The amount left over will be the weekly charge for services – subject to the actual service costs if this is a lower amount. This amount will be rounded down to the nearest whole pound

Charges for Residential and Nursing Home Care

For residential and nursing homes all residents are required to pay a minimum charge which could come from benefits, a pension or other income.

Capital

- If you have savings or capital of more than £22,250 you will pay the full cost of residential or nursing home care
- If you own a property its value will normally be regarded as capital after 12 weeks of moving permanently to a residential home – but it may not be taken into account if a relative continues to live there.
- Savings or capital of less than £13,500 is not taken into account.
- If you have savings or capital between £13,500 and £22,250 a charge of £1 per week for every £250 will be made.

Income

Income can include:

- Income support and pension credit
- Pensions and benefits, including state pensions and superannuation, incapacity, industrial injury and disablement pensions or benefits, and pensions relating to war death, dependency or disability.
- Attendance Allowance and DLA (care component)
- Net earnings and sick pay
- Income from non-dependant relatives and boarders
- Rental income
- Annuities and trust income
- Other available income

NB Disability Living Allowance (mobility component) is not taken into account.

Allowances and Deductions

All residents are entitled to keep a personal allowance of £21.15 per week

A further £10 is disregarded for people in receipt of charitable or voluntary income, civilian war injury pensions, service attributable disablement pensions, war widow or widower pensions and war disablement pensions, separation or maintenance payments.

NB In some cases, for example for short term residential care, the cost of maintaining your property may be allowed for a limited period. This may include rent, mortgage, water charges and council tax.

The Government is going to change the law in relation to the responsibility of husbands and wives to maintain each other. In the meantime local Councils have been issued with guidance recommending they use their discretion to cease charging the spouse of the person in the care home. We have been advised that this recommendation is being adopted in Brighton & Hove.

Financial assessments are normally reviewed each year to take account of increases in benefits and any other changes in your financial circumstances. If you think the charge has been incorrectly calculated, or is unreasonable, you should tell the person responsible for arranging the services. They will take up the matter on your behalf and let you know the outcome.

You can get independent advice from one of the major voluntary organisations which represent the interests of service users, for example Age Concern, the Carers' Centre or the Disability Advice Centre.

Always check with the Benefits Agency that you are receiving all the benefits you are entitled to.

More detail about calculating charges for home care or residential or nursing home care is available from:

Income & Payments Section
Adult Social Care
Bartholomew House
Bartholomew Square
Brighton
BN1 1JN

Referral Line Tel: Residential Services 295660
Non-Residential Services 295662

