



# Community Care

# Fact Sheet No.6

**The Carers Centre for Brighton & Hove**  
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**Registered Charity No. 1015728**  
**Registered Company No. 2758481**

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## **Introduction**

This Fact Sheet gives information on:

- Adult Social Care services in Brighton and Hove 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 Non-Residential Care Services
- Council Charges for Residential and Nursing Home Care
- The local Care and Support Services Directory 2021/22.

## **Coronavirus**

Some of the services and procedures covered in this Fact Sheet may still be affected by Covid-19 but the basic principles and conditions will remain unchanged. Information on support for unpaid carers in this respect can be found at [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/support-unpaid-carers](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/support-unpaid-carers)

## **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 or 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](mailto:accesspoint@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

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

You can also apply for help online through the website [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk)

## **Needs Assessment**

ASC will carry out an assessment of the person who appears to be in need of care and support regardless of their financial status or whether ASC thinks their needs will be eligible.

A needs assessment can take place by telephone, by email or in person. The assessment will be used to identify care and support needs. With permission ASC will also contact any professional supporting the person concerned.

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 in writing.

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. ASC will then advise about any contribution to the costs of the services to be received. See Charges for Non-Residential Care Services, Page 3 and Charges for Residential and Nursing Home Care, Page 5.

A Council leaflet “Eligibility for Adult Social Care Services” provides further information on the subject. This publication can be downloaded from the Council’s website [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk) or obtained from the Access Point.

### **The Carers Hub**

The Carers Hub is a single point of contact for unpaid carers to access information, advice and support services that are available for them and the people they care for. This can include a carer’s assessment (see below). Regular coffee mornings for carers are held at six locations in Brighton and Hove.

You can contact the Carers Hub as follows:

Tel: 01273 977000

Email: [info@carershub.co.uk](mailto:info@carershub.co.uk)

Website: [www.carershub.co.uk](http://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 obtained from the Hub or downloaded from the Council’s website [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk)

### **The Carer’s Assessment**

A carer providing unpaid support to someone who could not manage without their help has the right to a carer’s assessment. It can be a useful first step in helping them to understand their situation as a carer and the needs they may have.

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 about 20 minutes. However, if appropriate, a face to face assessment can be arranged by appointment. 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 Non-Residential Care Services**

The Council charges for most care and support services. If a person is eligible for care services the person will be offered a financial assessment to see if help can be given towards the cost of care.

### **The Financial Assessment**

This will cover such areas as home care, day care, community support/outreach services, money management and home adaptations over £1,000.

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. Assessed charges apply from the start date of care provision.

The value of the person's main residence will not be taken into account, but if the person owns or has a share in any other property the value will usually be counted toward total savings.

A person's capital/savings under £23,250 but over £14,250 will be assessed as producing income at the rate of £1 per week for every £250 (or part). The result of this calculation is known as the Tariff Income charge and will be added to the person's total weekly income. Some capital can be disregarded, e.g. personal injury trusts.

Almost all income is taken into account, including most state benefits. However, mobility allowances, war pensions and employment earnings are disregarded.

The person will be asked to list any expenditure that particularly relates to their disability and this will be assessed when calculating the amount charged. Evidence of this expenditure may be required.

The assessment calculation is done as follows:

- Total chargeable income plus the Tariff Income
- Take away the set living allowance of £189 per week (£145 per week for one of a couple)
- Take away the assessed disability costs
- Take away certain housing costs, e.g. rent, mortgage, Council Tax, water rates
- The amount left over will be the weekly charge for services (rounded down to the nearest whole pound).

### **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, the income is apportioned but consideration is given to both partners' financial position. For this reason, financial assessments will usually be completed by reference to all income, savings and expenditure of the household and half of a couple's eligible household expenditure will usually be allowed.

The costs of care services vary and are set by the care provider. Independent home care agencies charge various rates from £18 per hour.

The Council provides some services in certain circumstances. For these services the charges are as follows:

Managed Home Care - at a maximum of £27.00 per hour for each carer.

Managed Day Care - at a maximum of £41.00 per day.

There are extra fixed charges for:

Funded Transport at £4.20 per return journey.

Meals at a Day Centre at £5.00 per meal.

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 – for details see Page 6. Further details about charges are provided in the Council's Adult Social Care Information Sheet No 2 – Charges for Care Services (community based non-residential) (April 2021).

### **Charges for Residential and Nursing Home Care**

If a person is unable to pay the full cost of the care home the Council will ask for a statement of the person's financial resources (eligible savings and capital and income) to be provided. If assistance with completing a statement is required, someone from the Council's Financial Assessment Team should be able to help – see contact details, Page 6. A written confirmation of the charge to pay will then be received. All residents are required to pay at least a minimum charge.

### **Savings and Capital**

The Council looks at savings/capital:

- If the person has savings and capital of more than £23,250 the person will pay the full cost of residential or nursing home care
- If the person owns a property its value will normally be regarded as capital after 12 weeks of moving permanently to a care home – but it may not be taken into account in some cases, for example, when a partner continues to live there.
- If the person owns a second property, the value will be taken into account from the date of admission to the home
- Savings or capital of less than £14,250 is not taken into account.
- A person's savings or capital between £14,250 and £23,250 will be assessed as producing an income of £1 per week for every £250 or part thereof. This is known as Tariff Income.
- 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 in the financial assessment. This will depend on individual circumstances.

### **Income**

The Council looks at income. This includes:

- Benefits such as Pension Credit; Income Support; State Retirement Pension; Employment and Support Allowance; Incapacity Benefit; Universal Credit; Industrial Injuries Benefit; and war widow and widower pensions
- superannuation and other private pensions
- Personal Independence Payment (daily living component); Attendance Allowance; Disability Living Allowance (care component)
- Rental income
- Annuities and trust income

- Any other available income.

Note: The mobility components of Personal Independence Payment and Disability Living Allowance, war pensions and earnings are not included.

Any Tariff Income from savings/capital will be added to the person's chargeable income.

### **Allowances and Deductions**

Allowances will then be deducted from this total. All residents are entitled to keep a personal allowance of £24.90 per week. A further £10 is disregarded for people in receipt of war widow or widower pensions. There is also a Savings Credit allowance of up to £5.75.

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

The balance of income less allowances is the amount which must be paid towards the cost of the care home fees.

Financial assessments are normally reviewed each year to take account of increases in benefits and any other changes in the person's financial circumstances. If you think the charge has been incorrectly calculated, or is unreasonable, you should contact the Council's Financial Assessment Team - see contact details below. Someone will then look into the matter and let you know the outcome.

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

Further details about charges are provided in the Council's Adult Social Care Information Sheet No1 – Charges for Residential and Nursing Home Care (April 2021)

Information Sheets and further advice about charges for non-residential care or residential and nursing home care can be obtained from:

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

Tel: Non-residential Services – 01273 295662, Residential Services – 01273 295660  
Email: ASCIncomesSection@brighton-hove.gov.uk

## **Care and Support Services Directory 2020/21**

The East Sussex and Brighton and Hove Care and Support Services Directory 2021/22 published by Care Choices Ltd is an important source of information on 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 Care Quality Commission. The specific types of services provided by these e.g. for older people, people with dementia, people with physical disability are specified..

The Directory can be viewed or downloaded from the website [www.carechoices.co.uk](http://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