

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

Financial Assessment and Charging



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

Paying for Respite Care Services

Revised April 2020

This leaflet describes what is meant by respite care and the charges for this service.

What is meant by Respite Care?

Respite is care that is provided on a short term basis for people who normally live at home, so that their carers can have a break from caring.

A carer is someone who provides regular and unpaid support for a relative, friend or neighbour of any age, who is ill, or frail, has a disability or mental health need. The care provided can involve physical and/or emotional support.

Respite care is care that is given to one person for the benefit of another person, the carer. The person who is going to receive the respite care must consent to the service they receive.

What kind of respite care is available?

Respite care can be provided in a range of services designed to meet the needs of the individuals concerned. An assessment will be carried out on the needs of the carer as well as the cared for person.

Respite Services available:

- Care in a residential / nursing home run by the Local Authority or Private Sector
- Care in your own home

For more information about the assessment of your needs as a carer or cared for person please contact our 'Duty Desk' where a trained member of staff called a 'Duty Officer' will talk to you about your situation and assess your needs. There is no charge for an assessment. To speak with the Duty Officer you can:

- Telephone the Duty Desk on 01685 724507

You will have a choice of this authority arranging your respite care, or requesting to have your care provided via a direct payment. A direct payment is where this authority will provide you with regular payments in order for you to purchase your care directly.

This option will not be available if you have nursing care needs.

Please see our separate leaflet on direct payments.

What choices of care home are there?

There is a wide range of choices available either run by the local authority or private sector. The home you choose must however be registered for the type of care required.

If you choose a home which is not run by the Local Authority we will have to confirm that the chosen home will accept this authority's standard contract before your respite can be arranged. It should be noted, however, that should you choose a home whose charges are more than the maximum amount the authority is prepared to pay, then you will, be expected, to meet the difference yourself or from a third party sponsor e.g. a relative.

How much respite can I have ?

The amount of respite will depend on your individual assessment and how your caring role impacts on your health, social activities and employment or training as well as the needs of the cared for person.

How much will the respite cost?

The cared for person who receives the respite care is the person eligible to pay for the service. From April 2016 under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 the way we charge for respite has changed.

If you receive respite for a period of less than 8 consecutive weeks you will be financially assessed in the same way as if you were receiving community care and support services under our non-residential charging policy.

The daily contribution for respite is £12.50 per day. The maximum contribution chargeable is £100.00 per week. This will include the contribution you pay towards any community care and support services.

The week runs from a Sunday to a Saturday. Therefore you must be aware that if you receive 7 days of consecutive respite that falls over 2 charging weeks, you will be charged for the number of days that are received within each charging week separately.

If your stay in a care home is extended and exceeds 8 weeks, the way you are charged will change. After the 8 weeks you will be financially assessed under our Residential Charging Policy.

If you require a temporary stay in a care home and the period requested is known to be longer than 8 weeks at the start of the service, you will be charged and financially assessed under our Residential Charging Policy from day 1 of your stay.

Please see our leaflet on Paying for Community Care and Support or Paying for Residential Care for more information on the financial assessment process.

What is a financial assessment?

For us to determine how much someone will need to pay each week for the respite service they receive in a residential / nursing home, they will be asked to provide details of their income (such as pensions, benefits etc.) and savings. Evidence of any financial information must be provided for us to complete the assessment accurately. The difference between the assessed contribution payable by the person receiving the respite service and the full charge of the service will be met by the authority. However the authority does set a maximum level for the weekly charges it will pay to any home.

The information you give to us will only be used to calculate your weekly contribution. It will not be given to anyone who is not involved in the financial process without your permission.

For more information and advice regarding financial assessments or how they are calculated; please contact our 'Assessment and Charging Team' on 01685 725000.

Where can I get more information?

If you require more information than what is contained in this leaflet you can contact the Financial Assessment and Charging Team for help and advice on 01685 725000.

Alternatively you can seek independent advice from your local Citizens Advice Office or other voluntary organisation.

Can I appoint someone to act for me?

Yes, you have the right to appoint a third party to act on your behalf for all or part of the assessment process. This may be a family member, friend or an independent person. Your local Citizens Advice should be able to advise you of advocacy services in your area.

For more information about being a carer you can find information leaflets at a number of local places. A local voluntary organization called the Merthyr Tydfil Carers Strategy Network have, along with partner agencies produced a Carers Information Pack. It is a reference guide for anybody working with carers, or for those who are caring for someone.

The pack is available at a variety of outlets including council offices, libraries, G.P Surgeries, local hospitals. This information is available in other formats and languages upon request by contacting the Duty Officer (Telephone : 01685 724507)