

Appendix 3

6.1 Disability Related Expenditure (DRE) Allowances**Current DRE Allowances**

Disability-related Expense	Amount considered in assessment	Evidence required
Community Alarm System (Excluding any Telecare equipment provided by the Council free of charge)	£0 - provided free of charge in Tower Hamlets. Actual cost if reasonable for a non-council provided system unless included in a housing benefit claim	Bills from provider
Privately arranged care	Actual cost if Social Care Practitioner confirms requirement as part of the Care Plan and Council supported care is reduced accordingly	Signed receipts for at least 4 weeks
Private Domestic help	Actual cost if Social Care Practitioner confirms requirement as part of the Care Plan and Council supported care is reduced accordingly	Signed receipts for at least 4 weeks
Dietary	Allow where specific diet required with good reason (e.g. due to specific illness, condition or food allergy). 'Normal' food/drink expenditure for an adult couple averaged at £52/week in 2015 (ONS). Assume normal expenditure for an individual £30 per week. The allowable amount is receipted expenditure which indicates specialist purchases and expenditure above this amount on a weekly basis. So a) Check receipt includes specialist dietary items, b) would reasonably indicate that weekly spend is over £30, If so, calculate the DRE award based on Weekly Spend- £30.	Receipts showing special purchases
Gardening	Allow if service user is unable to maintain a garden due to disability and there are no other household members who could do so. Amount discretionary based on individual costs of garden maintenance. Indicative guide (individual circumstances may vary). 1 hour of gardening @ £15-£25 per month maximum – would equal a maximum of £6 week. This allows for seasonal variation in requirements.	Signed receipts for at least 4 weeks
Wheelchair	£3.75 per week manual £9.12 per week powered	Evidence of purchase. No allowance if equipment provided by Council/NHS free of charge.
Powered bed	Actual cost divided by 500 (10 year life) up to a maximum of £4.20 per week	Evidence of purchase if available.
Turning bed	Actual cost divided by 500 up to a maximum of £7.27 per week	Evidence of purchase if available. No allowance if equipment provided by Council/NHS free of charge.
Powered reclining chair	Actual cost divided by 500 up to a maximum of £3.30 per week	Evidence of purchase if available
Stair-lift	Actual cost divided by 500 up to a maximum of £5.88 per week	Evidence of Service User purchase without Disabled Facilities Grant input
Hoist	Actual cost divided by 500 up to a maximum of £2.88 per week	Evidence of Service User purchase without DFG input
Clothing/ Footwear	Only allow over and above 'usual' expenditure, £5 a week for an individual. Must be reasonable in relation to disability. This would include for example specialist clothing, and potentially frequent replacement of clothing in connection with incontinence issues. As a guide, it would be reasonable to expect specialist shoes + clothes are bought 4 x a year at £100 a time.	Receipts
Incontinence	Pads, up to £7.28 a week for heavy incontinence (2 per day). Bed pads- up to £6.65 a week for heavy incontinence (1 per day) Barrier creams- up to £7 a week (2 * single use sachets per day) See above for guideline amounts on laundry and clothing replacement.	Receipts
Laundry/Washing Powder	£3.61 per week for extra washing powder. Launderette costs where it is not reasonable for a service user to have their own washing machine- £5 for single wash load, £5 per hour for large dryer.Allow for anything above 2 wash loads and 1 dryer load a week ie £15.	Care Plan will have identified an incontinence problem. Identify more than 2 loads per week
Medication	These may not be claimed for without a note from a GP or Social Care Practitioner explaining why this is needed without a prescription.	Note from GP or Social Care Practitioner and receipts of purchase.
Phone/ Mobile phone/ internet	This would usually be considered as 'normal' expenditure. Only allow if there is reasonable evidence of a requirement for usage over and above usual in relation to a disability.	Bills showing level of expenditure.
Transport	If transport costs are covered by mobility component of DLA or PIP, then do not allow. If the transport is directly related to the disability, receipts are provided and the expenditure, net of reasonable cost for a non-disabled Service User is over and above any DLA or PIP mobility allowances, then allow. Guideline for reasonable 'normal' expenditure on transport for working age adults- £21.20 (current 7 day bus and tram pass cost from TfL). For older people, if they are DRE eligible and DLA/PIP mobility does not cover it, any reasonable taxi usage due to disability would need to be covered, as a non-disabled older Service User would travel at zero cost on public transport. Bear in mind availability of London Councils Taxicard scheme for people getting some disability benefits. This means most individual taxi fares should cost only £1.50. Allowing 3 return journeys a week would be £9. In the absence of receipts or evidence of additional journeys this should be used as a guideline amount.	Receipts
Hairdressing	If the Service User is unable to wash their own hair and this is not achieved through the delivery of the Care and Support Plan, a suggested amount of up to £7 a week, which should be evidenced by receipts. Otherwise generally, do not allow. A disabled Service User may need a mobile hairdressing service to visit at home, but these are generally cheaper than salon based services. If there are clearly evidenced exceptional circumstances, allow.	Receipts
Spectacles	Allow any additional costs for specialist lenses needed due to a disability. Generally divide costs by 104 (two year lifespan) unless there is evidence of more frequent replacement. General guideline amount for normal prescription glasses £120.	Receipts

Appendix 3

6.1 Disability Related Expenditure (DRE) Allowances

Proposed DRE Allowances (implementation date 1st April 2023)

A standard allowance for disability related expenditure will be allowed for customers who undergo a full financial assessment and qualify by receiving either Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payment or Attendance Allowance. The client's care and support must be provided in a community based setting, including a person's own home.

A Client can request an individual assessment of Disability Related Expenditure if they feel that their Disability Related costs are higher than the standard amount.

All additional expenditure will require verification. This will be done via receipts and bank statements, and all expenditure will need to be relevant and reasonable.

A standard rate of DRE will be applied. The amount depends on the age of the customer and the disability benefit that they are in receipt of, as per the table below:

Disability Related Expenditure – Standard Allowances:

Age / Disability Benefit Category	Standard Allowance Per week
Aged between 18- Pension Age	
Low Rate Disability Living Allowance/PIP	£10.00 per week
Mid Rate Disability Living Allowance/PIP	£15.00 per week
High Rate Disability Living Allowance/PIP	£25.00 per week
Over Pension Age	
Low Rate Attendance Allowance/PIP	£15.00 per week
High Rate Attendance Allowance/PIP	£25.00 per week

If the actual disability related expenditure is above the standard amounts, the Client will be assisted to list these individually. The Client will be required to provide proof of expenses such as receipts or bank statements detailing each item.