Local Authorities are empowered to charge for Residential and Nursing Homes under the Care Act 2014. The fees charged by care homes vary. This information sheet explains the rules we follow to calculate charges from April 2018 to March 2019.

If you are unable to pay the full cost of the care home, the council may be able to help you and we will ask you to provide a statement of your financial resources. If you should require any assistance in completing a statement then someone from the Council’s Financial Assessment Team should be able to help you. You will then receive written confirmation of the charge you have been assessed to pay. Please note that all residents are required to pay at least a minimum charge.

**Capital**

First we look at capital:
- If you have savings or capital over £23,250 you will have to pay the full cost of residential or nursing home care.
- If you are the owner of your own home the value will usually be taken into account after 12 weeks of moving permanently to a Care Home. However, it may not be taken into account in some cases, for example, when your partner continues to live there.
- You will be assessed as a permanent resident if your needs determine that you are unable to return to your home.

- If you own a second property, the value will be taken into account from the date of admission to the care home
- Savings or capital of less than £14,250 is not taken into account.
- For savings or capital between £14,250 and £23,250 a charge will be made of £1 per week for every £250 or part. This is known as “Tariff Income”
- If any savings or property has been transferred to someone else prior to needing residential or nursing care it may still be taken into consideration in the financial assessment. This will depend upon individual circumstances.

**Income**

Next we look at all income. This includes:
- Benefits such as: Pension Credit; Income Support; State Retirement Pension; Employment and Support Allowance; Incapacity Benefit; Universal Credit, Industrial Injuries Benefit; war widow & widower pensions
- Superannuation & other private pensions
- PIP, Attendance Allowance and DLA (care) (where applicable)
- rental income
- annuities and trust income
- any other available income

**NB** The following are not included: Disability Living Allowance and PIP
mobility components; War Pensions; Earnings.

**Allowances and deductions**

We then make allowances and deductions for outgoings, as follows:

- 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.
- Savings Credit Allowance of up to £5.75

**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.

**Calculating the charges**

First we add any “tariff income” from savings to all other chargeable income: Then allowances are deducted from this total. The difference between the income calculation and allowances is the amount which must be paid towards the cost of the Care Home fees.

**Paying the charges**

You will usually be asked to pay the assessed charge directly to the care home. Their preferred method of payment is by monthly standing order from your bank account and you should ask the manager for details of the care home’s bank account so that you can make these arrangements.

If you are staying in a care home run by the Council you will be billed by the Council’s Central Collection Team and the invoice will give advice on how to pay.

In Care Homes the Council actually manages itself the maximum charge is normally £844.00 per week, but you only pay this amount if you have savings or capital over £23,250.

**Third Party or “top up” contributions**

The council has a contract with private and voluntary care homes and, in most cases, there is a fixed fee rate depending upon they type of care home and your level of needs. If you have chosen to move to a home that costs more than the Council usually pays, the extra cost must be paid as an additional contribution by a family member, or friend. This person is known as a “third party”. This extra “top up” payment is separate from your assessed contribution and must be paid to the care home **in addition** to the amount you are assessed to pay from your own income.

**Reviewing the charges**

Financial assessments are normally reviewed each year to take account of increases in benefits and any other changes in your financial circumstances.

It is important to give full and accurate details of your finances, so that a fair charge for services can be made. The Council reserves the right to check any information given by making further enquiries.

If you believe that your charge has been incorrectly calculated, or is unreasonable, you should contact the Council’s Financial Assessment Team (see contact details below) or ask someone to do this for you. We will look into your concerns and let you know the outcome.
You may choose to seek independent advice from a voluntary organisation that represents the interests of service users, for example:

- Age UK
  (01273 720603)
  www.ageuk.org.uk
- Carers Centre for Brighton and Hove
  (01273 746222)
  www.thecarerscentre.org
- Disability Advice in Brighton and Hove
  (01273 894050)
  www.possabilitypeople.org.uk

You should always check with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) that you are receiving all of the benefits to which you are entitled, for example, Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments (mobility and care components).

Your benefit entitlements may change after you are admitted to a residential care home and it is always advisable to notify the DWP of your change in circumstances. If you are unable to contact the DWP yourself and have no friends or family who can help you then the Council’s Financial Assessment Team can assist you.

We do not normally provide a copy of your completed financial statement but will always do so on request.

Our first concern is that you should receive the services you need, even if you challenge the assessed charges. However, if you do not pay the charges, the Council reserves the right to take appropriate legal action.

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**Getting more information**

It is not possible to include here all of the detailed and more complicated rules about calculating charges. If you want more information, please write to:

Financial Assessment Team  
Adult Social Care  
2nd Floor, Bartholomew House  
Bartholomew Square  
Brighton BN1 1JE  
Or telephone us on:  
01273 295660  
Or email us at:  
ASCIncomesSection@Brighton-Hove.gov.uk

**Duty of confidentiality**

Everyone working with you has a legal duty to keep your information confidential to the organisation and to only share it with other agencies when it is necessary to provide you with appropriate services or to enable us to carry out our statutory duties. There may also be exceptional cases where the law or public interest will override your right to confidentiality.

**This information sheet is available in large print, Braille and audiotape on request.**

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**Help for non-English speakers**
Someone you know may need our help. If their first language is not English, they may benefit from an interpretation of this information sheet. For more information please ask your social worker or Financial Assessment Team staff.