

Proposed Changes to the Disability Related Expenditure (DRE)

Area: Cambridge City, East Cambridgeshire, Fenland, Huntingdonshire, South Cambridgeshire,

Consultation opens: 01/04/2016 / **Consultation closes:** 02/05/2016

Contact: Theodore Mfuni

Service: Adult Social Care

Telephone number: 01223 729113

Email address: Theodore.mfuni@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Consultation website:

<http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/DREconsultation/>

Overview

People who are allocated a Personal Budget for care and support, funded by Cambridgeshire County Council, also have a financial assessment to see how much they should contribute to the cost of their care and support. The methodology for the financial assessment is set out in the Fairer Contributions Policy¹.

The way the financial assessment works is that it deducts costs for basic living expenses such as housing costs and electricity. It then takes into account any Disability Related Expenditure (DRE). DRE is the extra costs people have each week because of a disability, illness or because they are mentally or physically frail. For example, you might pay for extra laundry costs or extra heating. These costs are taken into account when determining how much income people have left and working out how much they need to contribute to the cost of their care and support. To be eligible for DRE, you must be in receipt of Attendance Allowance or the care components of Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment.

Once basic living expenses and any DRE have been taken into account, the remainder of the income that remains is then assessed to determine the amount that someone can afford to pay. There is a minimum income guarantee set by government so that you must be left with this amount of money to live on.

¹ Available at

http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/2966/fairer_contributions_policy_updated_july_2014

The Council is proposing changes to the **DRE** of the financial assessment for people who live in their own home in the community (i.e. not in a residential care home or nursing home).

The Council sets a standard rate of DRE so that people who are eligible for DRE can choose this rate and are not required to provide evidence of any expenditure related to their disability. Alternatively, people can choose to have an individual assessment to determine the level of DRE and provide evidence of their expenditure for consideration by the Council. Some Local authorities do not use a standard rate for DRE and expect all people who are eligible for DRE to provide evidence of their expenditure.

The proposed changes

At the moment, the standard rate of DRE is £26 per week.

The Council is proposing to retain a standard rate for DRE, but to reduce it to £20 per week. **People eligible for DRE would continue to have the choice of using the standard rate of DRE or requesting an individual assessment and providing evidence of relevant expenditure.**

This change is being proposed after considering the standard rate of DRE used in a number of other Local Authorities that showed that the rate was higher in Cambridgeshire. This change will assist Cambridgeshire County Council in managing the financial challenges it faces whilst ensuring that there is a fair and equitable way to reflect the additional costs that people with disabilities have to manage.

Consultation

This short questionnaire offers you an opportunity to comment on the proposed change to DRE. The Council is particularly keen to hear views from people who may be affected by these changes.

The proposal and the responses from the consultation will be considered by the Adults Service Committee before any change is made. The Committee is expected to consider the proposal at its meeting on 17 May 2016.

CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE

About You

Please tell us a little bit more about you. This will help us make sure we have considered the views of a wide range of people. If you are completing this as a family carer, please provide the details of the person you are caring for.

Are you replying as:

An individual	<input type="checkbox"/>
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An organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----------------	--------------------------

Are you a.....

Service user	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health and social care professional	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other please state below:	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="text"/>	

What is the name of your organisation (*This is optional but will help us better understand your feedback.*)

Are you...

Male	<input type="checkbox"/>
Female	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>

Are you responding as a.....

Local Authority	<input type="checkbox"/>
Care Provider	<input type="checkbox"/>
Voluntary organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other please state below:	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="text"/>	

How old are you...

18-24	<input type="checkbox"/>
25-34	<input type="checkbox"/>
35-44	<input type="checkbox"/>
45-54	<input type="checkbox"/>
55-64	<input type="checkbox"/>
65-74	<input type="checkbox"/>
75-84	<input type="checkbox"/>
85 or older	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>

What is your home or organisation postcode?

Q1) To what extent do you agree or disagree that the Council should continue to offer a standard rate of DRE within the financial assessment process?

(PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY BELOW)

Strongly agree		Tend to disagree	
Tend to agree		Strongly disagree	
Neither agree nor disagree		Don't know	


Q2) To what extent do you agree or disagree that the standard rate of DRE, where people are not required to provide evidence of expenditure related to their disability, should be reduced?

(Please note, people could still request an individual assessment for DRE, but would have to provide evidence of expenditure)

(PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY BELOW)

Strongly agree		Tend to disagree	
Tend to agree		Strongly disagree	
Neither agree nor disagree		Don't know	

Please add any comments you may have on the proposed change below:



Appendix 2 – Letter to service users inviting participation in the consultation

Dear «Title» «Surname»,

RE: Proposed Changes to the Disability Related Expenditure Consultation

The Council is consulting on proposals to change the standard rate of Disability Related Expenditure (DRE) when doing financial assessments for people who live in their own home in the community. DRE is taken into account when assessing the amount that people can afford to pay towards their Personal Budget for care and support.

At the moment, the standard rate of DRE is £26 per week and is available to anybody who is in receipt of Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments. The Council is proposing to retain a standard rate for DRE, but to reduce it to £20 per week. People eligible for DRE would continue to have the choice of using the standard rate of DRE or requesting an individual assessment and providing evidence of relevant expenditure.

This change is being proposed after considering the standard rate of DRE used in a number of other Local Authorities that showed that the rate was higher in Cambridgeshire. This change will assist Cambridgeshire County Council in managing the financial challenges it faces whilst ensuring that there is a fair and equitable way to reflect the additional costs that people with disabilities have to manage.

This consultation offers you an opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the DRE. The Council is particularly keen to hear views from people who may be affected by these changes.

If you wish to respond to the consultation you can do so online at <http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/DREconsultation/>. The questionnaire should only take 15 minutes to complete. The consultation will close at midnight on Sunday 1st May 2016.

If you are unable to respond to the consultation online but would still like to give your views, the Council can send you a paper copy of the questionnaire or the Easy Read version. Please contact Theodore Mfuni on 01223 729113.

If you have any enquiries relating to DRE please call 01480 372387. Please note, at this time we will be unable to tell you how this may affect your care contributions or personal circumstances.

Your views will be used to help the Council make an informed decision about the proposed changes. The proposal and the responses from the

consultation will be considered by the Adults Service Committee before any change is made. The Committee is expected to consider the proposal at its meeting on 17 May 2016. The plan for putting this proposal into practice will be developed if the proposal is approved by the Committee.

Yours sincerely







Claire Bruin







Service Director

Adult Social Care

Appendix 3 – Raw responses from online system

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE DISABILITY RELATED EXPENDITURE (DRE)

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the Council should continue to offer a standard rate of DRE within the financial assessment process?				
			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree		70.59%	96
2	Agree		14.71%	20
3	Neither agree nor disagree		2.94%	4
4	Disagree		3.68%	5
5	Strongly disagree		3.68%	5
6	Don't know		4.41%	6
			answered	136
			skipped	11

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the standard rate of DRE, where people are not required to provide evidence of expenditure related to their disability, should be reduced? (Please note, people could still request an individual assessment for DRE, but would have to provide evidence of expenditure)				
			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree		9.63%	13
2	Agree		8.89%	12
3	Neither agree nor disagree		10.37%	14
4	Disagree		5.19%	7
5	Strongly disagree		59.26%	80
6	Don't know		6.67%	9
			answered	135
			skipped	12

Please add any comments you may have on the proposed change below (70)

1	06/04/16 11:24AM ID: 35071386	Not two people are the same and need different types of support some might need £26 some £20 and some might need less so all cases should be looked at
2	06/04/16 3:07PM ID: 35089424	For many people, including me, the process of gathering 'evidence' will be too hard to do, especially given the effects of their disability. The standard rate is already an underestimate, but I am willing to suffer the potential costs of this, if the alternative is doing hours and hours of admin.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the standard rate of DRE, where people are not required to provide evidence of expenditure related to their disability, should be reduced? (Please note, people could still request an individual assessment for DRE, but would have to provide evidence of expenditure)

			Response Percent	Response Total
		<p>How do I prove how much of my central heating bill is the 'extra cost of being disabled?'. How do I prove the cost of charging my power wheelchair and mobility scooter? When I buy something that I don't buy weekly but that will eventually wear out / break (the special bed I sleep in, the special mugs I drink from) how to I prove the weekly cost to you? I buy some special food - what percentage of the cost of a special loaf of bread (low fat, low sugar, in my case) is the DRE and what isn't?</p> <p>Even if all those things could be calculated and proved with receipts etc, it would be a poor use of my time and energy. As I don't have the energy to have a shower every day, I don't want to waste energy on this process.</p> <p>Your suggesting the DRE should be reduced from £26 a week to £20 a week. but I couldn't spot a question about this change. I don't think you should do that. Scope's research says the extra costs of being disabled average £550 a month - http://www.scope.org.uk/Get-Involved/Campaigns/Extra-costs/Extra-costs-commission/Full-Report</p> <p>£20 a week is £1040 a year, when Scope say the extra costs of being disabled are £6,600 a year. I would be interested to see how you justify your current rate of £26 a week, and the equality impact assessment you've completed for the reduction to £20 a week.</p> <p>Just because other councils are doing something, doesn't make it right or fair.</p>		
3	06/04/16 4:50PM ID: 35099296	The large majority of people in receipt of AA, DLA or PIP are extremely vulnerable and struggle with the most aspects of life. They rely on a help of others to help them with their support and fighting their corners; they are the forgotten few - hence the reason why the Council think it is ok to disadvantage them. I am speaking for someone who has protected characteristics - she is mentally impaired and struggles with the simple day to day chores that you and me do without thinking. To lose £6.00 per week means the difference between going out and meeting others or keeping the electric heater on.		
4	06/04/16 4:58PM ID: 35099008	I do not mind paying a bit more towards my care.		
5	06/04/16 7:33PM ID: 35111426	I have looked after my husband for 16 years after he had a stroke , I gave up my good job to look after him and have been his full time Carer , he has got worse over the last few years and have had to ask for more help , he is 1 continent now and the washing and cleaning is never ending I have recently retired and reducing the money would make s big difference , however j do believe that we should all be assessed and I would be more than happy fur someone to come out and visit us		
6	06/04/16 10:16PM ID: 35119686	<p>1. Another example of Cambridgeshire County Council targeting its most vulnerable citizens.</p> <p>2. Consultation document fails to say how long DRE has been £26. In that time, has inflation gone down?</p> <p>3. What evidence, other than 'some other (unnamed) councils allow £20', can Cambridgeshire offer that £20 is a reasonable figure?</p>		

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the standard rate of DRE, where people are not required to provide evidence of expenditure related to their disability, should be reduced? (Please note, people could still request an individual assessment for DRE, but would have to provide evidence of expenditure)

			Response Percent	Response Total
		<p>4. Are these other authorities similar to Cambridgeshire, where, given its rural nature, costs for disabled people are likely to be higher?</p> <p>5. Are there other authorities which allow a figure greater than £20? If so, why doesn't Cambridgeshire align itself with these?</p> <p>6. What risk assessment / analysis has Cambridgeshire done on the impact on and outcomes for service users? These are hardly likely to be positive.</p> <p>7. The consultation document, as far as I can see, does not say how much money Cambridgeshire hopes to save from this policy.</p> <p>8. Will the council take any notice of the results of this consultation or will it just press on regardless as it usually does?</p>		
7	07/04/16 11:51AM ID: 35162307	Disability benefits are assessed according to need as are council services so I do not understand the morality in taking away money from people who have been assessed as needing it to live on.		
8	07/04/16 12:14PM ID: 35163978	My daughter suffers from a long term physical disability and lives independently ,she already has to pay almost £65 per week towards her Care package - to decrease the DRE would mean she would need to make up the difference which would equate to £71 per week or an additional £24 per month she doesn't have to spend in her pocket .She already struggles to pay the £65 any additional cost would crucify her .She doesn't ask to be disabled but seems to be penalised at every opportunity that the councils /government can find for wanting to live on her own with a Care package .I AM STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THIS		
9	08/04/16 7:27AM ID: 35230785	people currently receiving this are generally not able to remember every cost and expense so will lose by default. they will have to remember and implement a list of approved cost at every transaction.		
10	09/04/16 11:14AM ID: 35320236	I am so far above it that it does not really impact me.		
11	09/04/16 1:16PM ID: 35324053	<p>Using the reason that a number of other Local Authorities have a lower rate of DRE to try to reduce Cambs rate of DRE is not a reasonable argument to reduce any form of Disability Allowance. All County Councils are being financial challenged due to harsh government policies. The governments dogma of going for the easy target of disabled people is clear. I would like to think that a caring though cash strapped authority would not get into the situation of a race to the bottom as your reason for the change indicates. We are talking about the most vulnerable in society who are clearly to all the most targeted group by the government. I expect better from Cambs CC.</p> <p>I believe bringing in ethnicity into any survey is a form of racial discrimination and should not be promoted. If someone is a British citizen then the colour of his skin should not be asked for as your survey does.</p>		
12	10/04/16 6:00PM ID: 35401428	The council wishes to penalise those with increased needs by requiring increased evidence many such people suffer with dementia and complex health needs		
13	12/04/16 2:28PM	This question is badly worded. Personally, if my contributions are raised I can no longer afford care and Cambridgeshire is widely acknowledged to be an expensive place to		

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the standard rate of DRE, where people are not required to provide evidence of expenditure related to their disability, should be reduced? (Please note, people could still request an individual assessment for DRE, but would have to provide evidence of expenditure)

			Response Percent	Response Total
	ID: 35551769	live. It should not be lowered.		
14	12/04/16 4:57PM ID: 35566517	We are having our individual budget squeezed. This represents a £320 a year loss in real terms. Who devised these questions? I strongly/disagree/agree?????		
15	16/04/16 7:33PM ID: 35896816	In a climate of CCC clawing back funding for people with Learning Disabilities this is just another blow, my son now has to pay a minimum of £12 per week for transport as Whippet Coaches stopped the route he was using (with a free bus pass) with the agreement of CCC thus he now pays this additional fee from his benefits.. To reduce the DRE would mean an increase in his contribution so even less money for his living needs will be available		
16	19/04/16 1:39PM ID: 36113932	this is yet again going to penalise those who live at home with family and thus are unable to claim any living costs although they have them. ie someone who is in rented can claim any rent or expenses they have in relation to their accommodation. At present those who have a direct payment have not had any uplift on their care packages whereas those who have arranged care have an automatic uplift. Many of those receiving direct payment have already had care reduced have not been able to give staff pay rises. and have to top up their own support. so to pay more towards their care seems inappropriate		
17	19/04/16 8:15PM ID: 36142595	Caring for someone who has a disability always adds more expense to daily life, whether it is paying to keep the house warmer, doing extra laundry or simply driving the person who may need to attend activities or appointments where public transport is not adequate.		
18	20/04/16 1:56PM ID: 36198576	My attendance allowance is £82.30 each month but I have to pay Cambridgeshire CountyCouncil £106.44 each month for carers coming in each day to wash and dress me		
19	23/04/16 10:04AM ID: 36424158	My extra expenditure due to disability is considerable and I already applied last year for enhanced DRE. However the Council has not even gone through the motions of a response. I feel gutted!		
20	25/04/16 4:27PM ID: 36596143	Young disabled people seem to be taking more of a hit on their disability finances than most. Transport for post 16 education is now chargeable, not enough local provision that is inclusive for all disabilities so having to go out of county, which then incurs more expense and now the general expense of being disabled is being eroded. Saying that you can have an assessment is of no consequence when you are looking for proof of expenditure i.e laundry expenses. I feel that you wouldn't except a tesco receipt of washing powder when family and friends are doing your laundry, only a invoice from a professional cleaner, which is more expensive in the first place.		
21	26/04/16 10:01AM ID: 36648375	In my opinion, I think it's a disgrace that many disabled people are having their allowance cut when many have worked hard all their life to pay their way and taxes.		

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the standard rate of DRE, where people are not required to provide evidence of expenditure related to their disability, should be reduced? (Please note, people could still request an individual assessment for DRE, but would have to provide evidence of expenditure)

			Response Percent	Response Total
22	26/04/16 10:08AM ID: 36649372	It's rubbish		
23	26/04/16 10:10AM ID: 36649523	This would be very unfair for me.		
24	26/04/16 10:12AM ID: 36649749	I need this money to live.		
25	26/04/16 10:29AM ID: 36651634	Without my allowance I cannot live independently. Please don't reduce it as I won't be able to pay for the transport to get me out and see my friends.		
26	26/04/16 10:33AM ID: 36652005	I am paying £15 twice a week if DRE is reduced it will cost me more and I will be unable to pay.		
27	26/04/16 10:39AM ID: 36652437	As my overheads keeps getting higher, it gets harder to meet my basic needs just to live on! An my weekend call (Sat & Sun) by the carers has been dropped, but my monthly charge has not dropped.		
28	26/04/16 10:47AM ID: 36653037	The reduction of DRE allowance would be an expenditure that most disabled people can't afford. this puts a great financial burden on those people who were unlucky that they required financial support from the government, through no fault of their own. Now this is under threat. We assumed we would be looked after. Do not let us down.		
29	26/04/16 10:50AM ID: 36653926	Hard to understand changes so hard to give a view. "why don't they just do it?!"		
30	26/04/16 11:19AM ID: 36654469	My son now has to pay a minimum of £12.00 per week for transport to his voluntary work placement so to have further expense to find from his benefit would make life very difficult for him.		
31	26/04/16 11:40AM ID: 36656709	I was told at my financial assessment that unless James financial circumstances change his contribution will never be increased.		
32	26/04/16 11:44AM ID: 36658741	I receive support from living ambitions		
33	26/04/16 11:46AM ID: 36659085	I pay towards my carers now 3 times a day and do not want my income any further as the £6 goes towards my expenses.		
34	26/04/16 1:28PM ID: 36659593	I need the money to pay for my care without the standard rate of DRE I won't be able to see my friends at special choices as I need to pay for transport as I live in the countryside. I need help to do my personal care.		
35	26/04/16 1:38PM	I am Heidi's mother and she has been severely disabled from birth with a rare genetic syndrome. It would be impossible for me to provide evidence of expenditure due to the		

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the standard rate of DRE, where people are not required to provide evidence of expenditure related to their disability, should be reduced? (Please note, people could still request an individual assessment for DRE, but would have to provide evidence of expenditure)

			Response Percent	Response Total
	ID: 36668438	fact that Heidi is incontinent and requires extra washing for bed sheets etc. However the regularity of these events is hard to determine. I am Heidi's main carer and the loss of the £6 per week would have an impact. I understand that there are budget cuts all round but hitting severely disabled genuine cases is harsh. I do not think that individual assessments will work and they themselves will prove costly to undertake.		
36	26/04/16 1:47PM ID: 36669691	It may cost me more money than I pay now which I will be unable to pay.		
37	26/04/16 2:25PM ID: 36672525	As pensioners, I am a carer for my husband of coming up for 60 years and he is a carer for me. My husband is diabetic and also has a chronic kidney problem and has a pace maker fitted. I myself am a carer for my husband. I suffer with memory loss and in constant pain from arthritis all over and cannot walk far. Therefore I have to pay someone to do my household jobs, like cleaning. I need someone to help me shower and get dressed each morning.		
38	26/04/16 2:41PM ID: 36674141	As a pensioner I am a carer for my wife of coming up to sixty years and she is carer for me. I am diabetic with kidney problem which results in frequent visits to Addenbrookes and other hospitals which are costly in term of petrol and parking fees.		
39	26/04/16 2:49PM ID: 36675973	I strongly agree that the rate should not be reduced . As everything else keeps giving up, so more money has to be found from somewhere else.		
40	26/04/16 2:55PM ID: 36676469	It seems another nail in the coffin, however small, for people struggling to care for elderly on a limited budget.		
41	26/04/16 3:06PM ID: 36677566	I would prefer an individual assessment please		
42	26/04/16 3:30PM ID: 36678018	Do not agree with DRE being reduced. As an individual compared to equivalent peers do not burden any councils government to financial benefits that others in the same situation do. Living at home , family support plus financial support from them saves the councils/governments a great deal of money. Already charges have been implemented on my carer/mother with council that adult social care charge plus carers allowance not given due to state pension. I all feel very annoyed at extra costs applied when saving costs to the state and yet again more budget cuts. As individual it is not fair in comparison.		
43	26/04/16 3:36PM ID: 36680050	I am 82 years old and have cll (leukaemia), and resent any suggestion that my income will be reduced. My living cost has increased since I have had this illness, and find it appalling that my life should be made more difficult.		
44	26/04/16 3:54PM ID: 36681704	I am alone, had a stroke. it means I have no right arm and no right leg. I must have an assistant to do the washing up, wash clothes, hang them, and iron them. She changes the bed, walks with me to the car. She also helps when I go places with no scooters. I wish I could do things differently but sadly not.		

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the standard rate of DRE, where people are not required to provide evidence of expenditure related to their disability, should be reduced? (Please note, people could still request an individual assessment for DRE, but would have to provide evidence of expenditure)

			Response Percent	Response Total
45	26/04/16 3:57PM ID: 36682181	<p>Dear Theodore MFUNI</p> <p>I am writing in response to a letter received by my daughter, aged 57, who was born with a severe mental impairment, regarding the proposed reduction to the DRE. The outcome of the proposed reduction will result in her inability to live her life independently, something my wife and I have been desperately keen for her to do as we get older.</p> <p>For many years we have managed to support our daughter ourselves but we are now in our 80's and rely on the help of daily carers for her day to day care and for transport to Special Choices in Hartford. The £26 of DRE helps to pay for this support and without this help our daughter would not be able to go out and mix with her peers, which is so important to her wellbeing.</p> <p>By reducing the DRE by £6 per week (£24/month) – a 23% cut will have a devastating effect on her life and ours as we will have to find the difference from our pensions – and these have already been hit by the increase in council tax.</p> <p>So I have some questions for you to consider:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why is the DRE being reduced? Was this planned to assist when DLA payments were reduced by the Government? (even though this piece of legislation was turned down) 2. Does the extra revenue go into the social care budget? 3. This would increase the average care bill by £24.00 every 4 weeks – do you know what this actually means to the regular user? The difference between seeing a friendly face each day or not. 4. Disability related costs have increased e.g. taxi fares, equipment and necessary personal care products - how does the Council justify this increase? 5. Why was the letter not sent out in a more accessible form? Do you realize this excludes a large proportion of the LD community? 6. The consultation period is far too short for such a drastic reduction in support for vulnerable people. We suggest you extend the period until 30th June allowing all those affected to be able to understand what this means to them and their lives. <p>I look forward to hearing from you and hope you will take an interest in our daughter's plight to remain independent.</p> <p>Sincerely George Peck Mr & Mrs George Peck</p>		
46	27/04/16 4:50PM ID: 36779707	Not affordable - not enough money left to live on.		
47	01/05/16 6:05PM ID: 37072585	As long as they are sensible about what kind of evidence or proof is required for expenditure, I think all expenditure should have to be proved. There is little enough money to go around for vital services as it is, and assuming everyone has £20 a week could make quite a substantial difference if they don't actually have that. For me, I suspect my DRE is well over £20 and I would put in a claim as such. I think if people genuinely have the expenditure they will be willing to provide the proof of that.		

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the standard rate of DRE, where people are not required to provide evidence of expenditure related to their disability, should be reduced? (Please note, people could still request an individual assessment for DRE, but would have to provide evidence of expenditure)

			Response Percent	Response Total
		However I also think it is important to think carefully about what proof is required for certain things - how would you expect extra laundry costs to be proved? Would it be better to ask for a list of what extras are required, how much they cost and details of why they are required specifically for the individual's disability rather than asking for receipts showing extra spending? Then each item on the list could be assessed as appropriate or inappropriate (including the amount spent - if someone is using luxury washing powder without good reason eg a skin condition when they could be using an own brand version it might be appropriate to lower the amount exempted to what they COULD spend instead).		
48	03/05/16 10:51AM ID: 37182296	: "It seems to me that by making these changes you could well be discouraging carers/helpers from doing as much as they do at the moment if they feel the person they care for will be penalised".		
49	03/05/16 10:53AM ID: 37182457	Did not want to complete a survey but said this: "If it hadn't been for talking to someone on the phone I wouldn't have taken part in this survey"		
50	03/05/16 10:54AM ID: 37182617	Did not want to complete a questionnaire and does not support the proposal: "In principal this seems fair however how many people realised that they get a £26 a week DRE allowance? I didn't. Nobody wants to lose £520 a year and will claim costs they did not know they could claim for such as extra heating and costs with cleaning so it could cost the council more money on top of this the cost of completing the assessments"		
51	03/05/16 10:56AM ID: 37182746	Did not want to complete a questionnaire and does not support the proposal: "The financial impact on people having the £6 withdrawn would be quite significant. £6 may not seem much to somebody who is earning a wage, but for people who are on benefits and who are only just managing marginally on what they get, the loss of £24 a month will be quite serious"		
52	03/05/16 10:58AM ID: 37182876	Supports the assessment proposal but does not want to complete the questionnaire / "I think it's a good idea"		
53	03/05/16 10:59AM ID: 37183079	Did not want to complete a survey but said this: "It is a good idea to introduce an assessment"		
54	03/05/16 11:01AM ID: 37183200	Did not want to complete a survey but said this: "I think this is a good idea. As I am bedbound and housebound and severely disabled I am indoors all the time. I have to use my heating more and also the internet as I can't get out to shop for things such as for personal hygiene. I have carers as I cannot stand for longer than 5 minutes and I have to have bed baths and my commode emptied which is next to me bed. My mother has to travel back and forth to help me which costs a lot petrol wise".		
55	03/05/16 11:02AM ID: 37183303	Did not want to complete a questionnaire and does not support the proposal: "Yet another assessment, we are inflicted with a barrage of assessments that are already not carried out in any kind of prompt effective way. Why yet another layer of bureaucracy to an overloaded system. We have been sent this questionnaire, but what is DRE, I am not aware we have had this assessment, what £6.00 allowance".		


To what extent do you agree or disagree that the standard rate of DRE, where people are not required to provide evidence of expenditure related to their disability, should be reduced? (Please note, people could still request an individual assessment for DRE, but would have to provide evidence of expenditure)

			Response Percent	Response Total
56	03/05/16 11:03AM ID: 37183460	Did not want to complete a questionnaire and does not support the proposal: "As a severely disabled person I find any extras letters appointments money issues a great worry. I do not cope with change"		
57	03/05/16 11:05AM ID: 37183552	"I feel I am unable to comment as I don't understand the system at the moment. I feel it is chaotic, understaffed and not transparent. I fear 'pushy' Carers are able to get more financial help than others because they know how the system works".		
58	03/05/16 11:06AM ID: 37183656	Did not want to complete a questionnaire and does not support the proposal: "Please do not make true disabled peoples' lives harder than they are. They are discriminated on enough and live on very little endlessly supported by parents. If you have to make savings please reassess travelling expenses and other perks council employees are paid and not target the most vulnerable people who are not capable of objecting".		
59	03/05/16 11:07AM ID: 37183728	Supports the proposal but does not want to complete the questionnaire / "I have no problem with Introduction of Assessment if done in proper manner".		
60	03/05/16 11:09AM ID: 37183860	Did not want to complete a questionnaire and does not support the proposal: "This needs to be dealt with sensibly and with sensitivity. Not all people with a disability are capable of keeping a full set of receipts or, indeed, relevant ones. A 'broad brush approach' is needed by the assessor and adequate time and patience in carrying out the assessment".		
61	03/05/16 11:10AM ID: 37184055	Did not want to complete a questionnaire and does not support the proposal: - "Please remember you are dealing with very vulnerable and disadvantaged people here. Your (the councils) role should be that of care, not causing more stress and misery for the people you are looking after, just for the sake of cutting costs and conforming to tick box culture! Please remember this in every decision or change you make affecting care for the disabled".		
62	03/05/16 11:13AM ID: 37184198	Did not want to complete a questionnaire and does not support the proposal: "I strongly believe, that if you wish elderly people (particularly those suffering with dementia) to remain in their own homes for as long as possible - you must be prepared to support the unpaid carers by providing as much professional help and respite as possible otherwise these carers will become the next group with medical issues requiring assistance".		
63	03/05/16 11:14AM ID: 37184418	Did not want to complete a questionnaire and does not support the proposal: "Service Users may not have the skills to cook or prepare their own food to any depth, and are never likely to. As a result they rely on a supply of ready meals which are kept in freezer, the overall cost of which is significantly more than if they bought the food fresh and prepared it themselves".		
64	03/05/16 11:35AM ID: 37186471	"I think that providing receipts of expenditure should be provided before allowance is processed".		
65	03/05/16 11:50AM ID: 37187955	"I think that providing receipts of expenditure should be provided before allowance is processed".		





To what extent do you agree or disagree that the standard rate of DRE, where people are not required to provide evidence of expenditure related to their disability, should be reduced? (Please note, people could still request an individual assessment for DRE, but would have to provide evidence of expenditure)

			Response Percent	Response Total
66	03/05/16 11:52AM ID: 37188199	"This seems reasonable as the council must ensure claims are genuine. However support should be offered to Service Users in obtaining these receipts as it could deter less able Service Users from claiming".		
67	03/05/16 11:53AM ID: 37188266	"Seems fair"		
68	03/05/16 11:54AM ID: 37188389	"I thought this was already the case! I have to produce receipts for anything not already agreed in my daughters care package - and am afraid of making a mistake so probably don't get the best for her".		
69	03/05/16 11:55AM ID: 37188475	"Quite happy to provide evidence of extra costs incurred as long as council pays back money on time and doesn't change rules to suit".		
70	03/05/16 11:56AM ID: 37188612	"The council has an obligation to account for expenditure, so should users!"		

Please tell us a bit more about you by ticking the appropriate box. This will help us make sure we have considered the views of a wide range of people. If you are completing this as family carer, please provide the details of the person you are caring for. Which of the following options best describes you? Are you replying as:

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	An individual		100.00%	131
2	An organisation		0.00%	0
			answered	131
			skipped	16

Are you...

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Service user		67.94%	89
2	Local authority		0.00%	0
3	Carer		22.90%	30
4	Care provider		0.00%	0
5	Health and social care professional		2.29%	3
6	Voluntary organisation		0.00%	0
7	Other (please state below)		6.11%	8

Are you...				
			Response Percent	Response Total
8			0.76%	1
			answered	131
			skipped	16
Comments: (21)				
1	06/04/16 4:58PM ID: 35099008	A care company spends an hour per day showering and dressing me. All the help above that is provided by my husband.		
2	06/04/16 8:10PM ID: 35114176	concerned citizen		
3	07/04/16 11:29AM ID: 35160329	Daughter		
4	07/04/16 12:14PM ID: 35163978	Mother		
5	09/04/16 1:16PM ID: 35324053	Family member of an Autistic adult with a form of aggressive Parkinson's. Now almost housebound.		
6	11/04/16 11:20AM ID: 35452316	I do not even know in your calculations if this affects me, but I am sick and tired of vulnerable people having benefits cut through government policy when this could be achieved through tax dodgers.		
7	12/04/16 2:28PM ID: 35551769	I strongly feel the disabled are being penalised as they are easy targets. I lost my house, job, ability to work, went bankrupt and am dying. Getting a carer at all was insult to injury but I couldn't cope without. Reverse roles when you make decisions, please. We're people, not drains on society or numbers.		
8	19/04/16 8:15PM ID: 36142595	I care for my adult daughter who has a severe learning difficulty.		
9	20/04/16 1:56PM ID: 36198576	As Above		
10	23/04/16 10:04AM ID: 36424158	I am an ex-ILF user whose income has been slashed since its closure.		
11	26/04/16 10:39AM ID: 36652437	I am filling the from for him as he has Parkinson's Disease		
12	26/04/16 11:19AM ID: 36654469	Parent of service user helping with the questionnaire		
13	26/04/16 1:38PM ID: 36668438	Mother of service user		
14	26/04/16 2:55PM ID: 36676469	I am the carer for my wife who has Alzheimer. She is 80 years old, I myself have physical disabilities.		
15	26/04/16 3:57PM ID: 36682181	Mother		
16	28/04/16 8:37AM ID: 36822746	Son of the person receiving care		
17	29/04/16 6:34PM ID: 36956346	I care for my adult son		
18	03/05/16 11:13AM ID: 37184198	On behalf of mother who suffers from dementia		
19	03/05/16 11:14AM ID: 37184418	Mother of person with LD		





Are you...			
			Response Percent
			Response Total
20	03/05/16 11:35AM ID: 37186471	Telephone conversation with service users	
21	03/05/16 1:45PM ID: 37198242	Mother	

Are you...										
								Response Percent	Response Total	
1	Male			<div></div>				35.11%	46	
2	Female			<div></div>				60.31%	79	
3	Other							0.00%	0	
4	Prefer not to say			<div></div>				4.58%	6	
Analysis	Mean:	1.74	Std. Deviation:	0.68	Satisfaction Rate:			24.68	answered	131
	Variance:	0.47	Std. Error:	0.06					skipped	16

Please provide your age:				
			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Under 18		0.00%	0
2	18-24	<div></div>	3.05%	4
3	25-34	<div></div>	8.40%	11
4	35-44	<div></div>	6.87%	9
5	45-54	<div></div>	10.69%	14
6	55-64	<div></div>	21.37%	28
7	65-74	<div></div>	16.03%	21
8	75+	<div></div>	23.66%	31
9	Prefer not to say	<div></div>	9.92%	13
			answered	131
			skipped	16

How would you describe your ethnic background?			
			Response Percent
			Response Total

How would you describe your ethnic background?

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	British		88.55%	116
2	Irish		0.00%	0
3	Gypsy & Traveller		0.00%	0
4	Other		1.53%	2
5	African		0.00%	0
6	Caribbean		0.00%	0
7	Other		0.00%	0
8	White and Black African		0.00%	0
9	White and Black Caribbean		0.00%	0
10	White and Asian		0.76%	1
11	Other		0.00%	0
12	Indian		0.00%	0
13	Pakistani		0.00%	0
14	Bangladeshi		0.00%	0
15	Chinese		0.00%	0
16	Other		0.00%	0
17	Any other Ethnic Group		0.00%	0
18	Prefer not to say		9.16%	12
			answered	131
			skipped	16

Are you..

							Response Percent	Response Total
1	In education (full or part time)		<div><div></div></div>				1.53%	2
2	In employment (full or part time)		<div><div></div></div>				8.40%	11
3	Self-employed (full or part time)		<div><div></div></div>				3.05%	4
4	Retired		<div><div></div></div>				26.72%	35
5	Stay at home parent / carer or similar		<div><div></div></div>				2.29%	3
6	Prefer not to say		<div><div></div></div>				54.20%	71
7	Other (please specify):		<div><div></div></div>				3.82%	5
Analysis	Mean:	4.98	Std. Deviation:	1.44	Satisfaction Rate:	66.28	answered	131
	Variance:	2.08	Std. Error:	0.13			skipped	16

Are you..			Response Percent	Response Total
Other (please specify): (5)				
1	06/04/16 3:07PM ID: 35089424	Part time work, very part time study		
2	11/04/16 10:06AM ID: 35445653	24 year old downs syndrome with speech impediment		
3	12/04/16 2:28PM ID: 35551769	I'll health retired and a neurosurgery guinea pig. I still try to contribute in my own way.		
4	16/04/16 7:33PM ID: 35896816	No paid employment, volunteer work		
5	23/04/16 10:04AM ID: 36424158	Numerically and medically retired		