



## SOCIAL SERVICES

### PAYING FOR CARE SERVICES AT 18 YEARS OLD

- **What happens to finances when the person becomes 18 years old and receives services from the Social Services Department?**

On the date the person becomes 18 years old they become an Adult and they then become subject to different legislation with regard to services provided by the Social Services Department. Their needs (will be) assessed under The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. If it is assessed that they have eligible needs, a care and support plan will be devised to meet their identified needs.

From the age of 18 they will be financially assessed for their ability to pay for services provided by the Adult Social Services Department. The type of service being provided will determine as to which set of rules are used in order to calculate how much they will need to contribute towards their service.

- **The person lives at home but attends school/college every day.**

You can continue to claim Child Tax Credit/Child Benefit until your child becomes 19 (20 in certain circumstances), provided the course is not an 'advanced' education course.

If the person wishes to claim benefits in their own right, then a claim for Universal Credit/Employment & Support Allowance (ESA) can be processed on the [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) website.

It is up to you to decide what the best option is for you financially, as we are unable to advise you, however, we will be able to give you benefit information at the time of the visit or you can obtain benefit information directly from the JobCentre Plus or by visiting their web site at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).

Should the person be provided with care/support services including overnight respite from the Social Services Department, they will be financially assessed under the Vale of Glamorgan's Charging for Care & Support Services policy.

**"This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg"**

- **The person has now finished school/college and is accessing services funded by Social Services Department.**

Benefits should be claimed in the person's own right and they will be financially assessed to contribute to their care package under the Vale of Glamorgan's Charging for Care & Support Services policy.

- **The person attends a college away from home During Term Time.**

If this is the case then from their 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday the person will be assessed under The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and the council has a duty to charge for their placement. As the local authority is providing care and accommodation you will no longer be entitled to claim Child Tax Credit and Child Benefit.

Benefits should then be claimed in the person's own name and would usually include Universal Credit/Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance/Personal Independence Payments (PIP).

A Financial Assessment Officer from the Community Care Finance Team of the Vale of Glamorgan Council will calculate the financial contribution the person will need to make and advise you of the amount left for personal expenses. The amount of Personal Expense Allowance is laid down in the regulations and is usually increased every April in line with any benefit increases. In extreme exceptional circumstances the Vale of Glamorgan Council can vary the personal expenses allowance, but this will need to be requested from the Head of Service and agreed.

When the person attends the residential college, Disability Living Allowance Care Component/Personal Independence Payment Daily Living Component is not payable. However if the person comes home on the weekend then they may apply a pro rata rate for this period. The mobility element of Disability Living Allowance/Personal Independence Payment Mobility Component usually remains in payment and is not taken into account within the financial assessment. The assessed charge will reflect this and you will be notified in writing regarding the assessed charge and methods of payment.

If anyone is receiving Carers Allowance for looking after the person attending College, then they too must notify the Carers Unit on 0800 731 0297 of the change in circumstances. If the person comes home on the weekend, then they may continue with the payments, as they will be providing at least 35 hours a week caring for someone or apply a pro rata rate.

In many circumstances the Appointee retains the Appointeeship in respect of benefits payable by the Department of Works and Pensions and it is the appointee's responsibility to notify them of the change in circumstances. Failure to notify the Department of Works and Pensions could result in an overpayment of benefit which will then need to be repaid.

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- **The person returns to live at home at the end of term.**

Whilst the person returns to live at home with you at the end of term, then no charges will be made for the residential college placement. However, should the Social Services Department provide a package of care to support them for this period whilst at home, a different financial assessment will need to be completed.

The financial assessment will need to be completed under the Vale of Glamorgan's Charging for Care & Support Services policy. The policy has been written following guidance by the Welsh Assembly Government. Disability Living Allowance care element/Personal Independence Payment Daily Living Component may be reinstated for the periods the person is at home. Contact the Disability Living Allowance Unit on 0800 121 4600 or Personal Independence Payment (PIP) on 0800 121 4433 and they will send you the necessary form to confirm the dates.

- **100% Funded by Health**

In relation to a Continuing NHS Healthcare placement, then these are the responsibility of the Health Board and agreement would need to be considered by them.

SS/PC/AUG20

This information may also be provided, by request, in other languages, in larger print and audio version. Please contact the Performance and Information Team on Tel: 01446 704814 to make arrangements.