1. Respite Care in Local Authority Care Homes.

Respite care is usually a planned programme or series of temporary stays in a care home. In Wolverhampton this type of care is arranged to give your carer regular breaks. The rest of this Fact Sheet applies when your stay is in a local authority care home. If you are entering an independent care home for a respite care stay you will be treated as a temporary resident and the normal charging rules will apply.

For respite care in a local authority care home where your temporary stay is less than 7 nights, there is no financial assessment undertaken by Social Care Services. Instead there is a flat rate charge, currently £17.70 per night for people aged over Pension age* (calculated on the basis of the Standard Minimum Guarantee of £148.35 per week minus the Personal Expenses Allowance of £24.40 per week, divided by 7) and £11.40 per night for those aged under Pension age* (calculated on the basis of the Income Support Personal Allowance and Disability premium of £104.25 per week minus the Personal Expenses Allowance of £24.40 per week, divided by 7).

If you are unable to meet this cost then you should contact your local Social Care Services office so that a financial assessment can be done in order to establish the reasonable amount of contribution in your circumstances.
For respite care where your temporary stay is for 7 nights or longer, a financial assessment will be undertaken by Social Care Services in order to determine the amount of your contribution to Social Care Services for the cost of your accommodation and.

The effect of respite care on your benefits is the same as for a temporary.

2. Disability Care Component (DLA) Care Component/Personal Independence Payment Daily Living Component/ Attendance Allowance.

Unless you are “self-funding” (see Fact Sheet 4) DLA Care Component or Personal Independence Daily Living Component or Attendance Allowance usually stops after 4 weeks (28 days) of being in care. However there is a “linking rule” which means that any stay of less than 28 days is linked to any previous stay if that stay was within the previous 28 days; therefore, in effect, cutting short the length of time for which DLA Care or PIP Daily Living Components or Attendance Allowance can be paid whilst you are in the care home for future stays. To allow DLA Care or PIP Daily Living Components or Attendance Allowance to remain in payment for each of your stays in care for up to 28 days, you could keep a careful count of the days you stay in care and establish a pattern of respite care. The following example will help you to see how the “linking rule” works.

Example

Mr Hammond is in receipt of Attendance Allowance and he has respite care every weekend. He goes into the care home on a Friday and leaves on the following Monday. This is counted as 2 days of respite care (Saturday and Sunday) because the day of entering (Friday) and the day of leaving (Monday) are not counted.

Mr Hammond continues with this pattern of respite care but he is mindful that each of his weekend stays after his first stay are being linked together because they are within 29 days of the previous stay. This means that after 14 weekend stays of 2 days each he has reached the end of his 28 days payment of Attendance Allowance whilst in a care home. If Mr Hammond spent a 15th weekend in respite care his Attendance Allowance would stop for the 2 days in the care home and only start in payment again when he went home until his next respite care stay, when it would stop again.

However, in order to avoid any break in the payment of his Attendance Allowance, Mr Hammond breaks the “link” by having shorter respite care stays. For 4 weekends following his 14th weekend stay he doesn’t go into the care home until the Saturday and he leaves on the Sunday. As there
are no days counted as days in a care home, he has effectively spent 29
days without a stay in care, thus breaking the link.

On the 19th weekend Mr Hammond goes back to going into the care home
on a Friday and leaving on a Monday. If he continues to repeat this
pattern his Attendance Allowance will be paid without any break for his
stays in the care home.

**Note**

For reasons demonstrated in the example, it is important to inform the
Disability Benefits Unit, as well as the local DWP office, of any stay in a
care home and, if you have a pattern of respite care planned, to advise
them of this in advance. If you are not able to arrange your respite care
in order to break the link then your DLA Care Component / PIP Daily
Living Component/ Attendance Allowance will cease after a total of 28
days in a care home and only start again when you are in the community.

*QUALIFYING AGE FOR STATE PENSION + PENSION CREDIT*

increases gradually until by 5/4/2020 a woman will need to be aged 65 (not 60) to qualify for any State Retirement Pension. Between
2024 and 2046 the pension age for men and women will then rise from 65 to 68. The qualifying age for Pension Credit has also
changed. Now anyone born on or after 6/4/1950 may not claim Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit) from the age of 60. Instead between
6/4/2010 to 5/4/2020 the qualifying age for claiming Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit) increases at three-monthly intervals so that
by 2020 you will need to be age 65 or over to qualify. At the same time the age limits for other social security benefits/provisions
similarly alters e.g. the cut off point for Income Support rises gradually from 60 to 65 for men and women/the cut off point for
JSA(C), JSA(IB), ESA(C) and ESA(IR) for women increases gradually from 60 to 65 to match the cut off point for men. Under the
new 'Pensions Bill' it is planned to bring forward the equalisation of the state pension age to 65 by 2018 (rather than 2020) and
increase it to 66 by 2020 with a rise to 68 for both men and women at some stage after this.
**Fact Sheet** | **Title**
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1 | General Rules
   1. Types of Care Home
   2. Types of Stay in Care
   3. Benefits in Care
   4. Outgoings
   5. Personal Expenses Allowance
   6. Choice of Care Home and Resident or Third Party Contributions/Top-ups
2 | Income and Capital
3 | Treatment of Property
4 | Self-funding
5 | Deferred Payment Agreements
6 | Financial help from your Partner
Usual Rates for Wolverhampton Care Homes

Respite Care

Temporary Absences from Care Homes

Appeals and Complaints Procedures

More Information and Useful Addresses

THESE FACT SHEETS ARE AVAILABLE AT www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/adultcareinformation OR FROM THE ADULT SOCIAL CARE SERVICES SECTION IN THE CIVIC CENTRE.