



Who should pay? – Discussion document

February '09

A meeting was initially held with members of the Worcestershire Adult Placement Carers Group who kindly agreed to assist in the initial stage of preparing draft guidance on the important topic of 'Who pays for what?' in a 'Shared Lives arrangement when a Service User is living or staying with a Carer. Subsequent additional suggestions and comments were made by members of the Lancashire North West NAAPS Carers group and other individual Carers who have contacted the NAAPS helpline.

The following proposals for discussion were based on situations where service users are in receipt of their own benefits (having paid the agreed contributions for their 'Share Lives' arrangement.)

Payment for	By Service User	By Carer	Suggested additional factors for consideration	Potential issues
Activities/entrance fees (service user's)	yes		Sometimes a need for long term Carers to fund an activity once for service user to test it out and decide to try the activity again then pay for it	
Activities/entrance fees for Shared Lives Carer supporting		yes	For an activity <u>only</u> for the benefit of the service user he/she could be asked to pay the Carer's entrance fee. (In some situations a Carer will go free or receive a discount)	Who makes the judgment of who is benefiting?
Proportion of holiday costs when going as part of Carer's family/household	yes			Can be difficult to calculate some elements on family holidays
Personally selected holiday for service user	yes		If the service user is going on his/her chosen holiday and wants his/her Carer to be the person to provide the support he/she needs he/she would be expected to cover both people's essential holiday costs.	a. Clarity needed about which holiday costs to be covered b. What happens if more than one Carer is needed?
Service user's independent holiday (not to meet respite needs)	yes		Service user would not be expected to pay board element to long-term Carer for this period	
Disability Equipment/adaptations			A Disabled Facilities Grant may be sought for adaptations	Will the Carer benefit financially in the future from the adaptation eg a home extension
Contributions to Shared Lives Carer's petrol for leisure journeys			1. If service user receives DLA (mob) and Carer regularly provides transport for leisure activities, proportion of mob. component to be paid by the service user to the Carer equal to the proportion of transport provided and if activities are for benefit solely of service user or not.	1. a. Who decides on the proportion? b. Should mob. component go with individual to respite?

Payment for	By Service User	By Carer	Suggested additional factors for consideration	Potential issues
			<p>2. Where level of mileage needs to be high (eg in rural areas) or if person not in receipt of DLA (mob), mileage rate may need to be considered or Shared Lives fee increased by either service user contribution or SSD payment.</p> <p>3. Where Motability car used separate arrangements needed.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>a. Could a mileage rate create financial problems for service users on lower benefits?</p> <p>b. Does this need to be a service user/Carer matching issue to avoid future problems?</p> <p>c. How should service users living in the same house but on different levels of income be treated?</p> <p>3.</p> <p>a. Who pays for petrol for the Motability vehicle?</p> <p>b. What happens when only one of the service users living with Carers has a Motability vehicle?</p> <p>c. Who pays for transport when service user with Motability vehicle goes for respite?</p>
Contribution to Shared Lives Carer's petrol for service user appointments where Carer needs to accompany and Carer's vehicle used.			<p>1. For local one-off appointments may be considered part of long term Carer's ordinary role and therefore not chargeable.</p> <p>2. For longer distance or regular appointments either mileage rate or proportion of DLA mob. considered</p>	Who defines when distance and regularity of appointments requires payment?
Shared Lives Carer's vehicle used for transport to day service or work	yes		If regular, either mileage rate or proportion of DLA mob. considered	<p>a. Could a mileage rate create financial problems for service users on lower benefits?</p> <p>b. Does this need to be a service user/Carer matching issue to avoid future problems?</p>
Snacks out with day service	yes			
Meals out with day services			Possibly agreed contribution by Carer (cost of packed lunch) service user to make up difference	This is only feasible if Carers receive a clear and realistic amount for food within the weekly 'board' element of the fee.

Payment for	By Service User	By Carer	Suggested additional factors for consideration	Potential issues
Snacks out with Carer	yes	yes	Each cover own costs	Can be difficult in family outing situations
Meals out with Carer			If for Carer's convenience Carer pays otherwise each cover own cost	As above
Meals out without Carer	yes		Service user to pay own meals out if Carer is expected to provide meals as part of Shared Lives arrangement and service user chooses to eat out.	If planned and happens regularly could it be argued that the Carer has not incurred a cost as they have not provided a meal?
Day centre attendance fee (if applicable)	yes			Should Carer's agreements be clearer that day care or funding of it is not the Carer's responsibility?
Non-prescribed health items or services eg cough syrup chiropody	Yes			Who should fund if either specialised diets required for health reasons?
Cigarettes	yes			
Drinks in pub with Carer	yes	yes	Some Carers buy first drink	
Clothes	yes			Should Carers pay for any clothing?
Toiletries/hairdresser	yes			
Birthdays and Christmas gifts from service users to friends and own family members	yes			
Furnishings/decoration			Service users pay to live in a furnished/well decorated home but can be expected to purchase any additional items they want for their own room eg additional shelving for CDs and pay a contribution for redecoration of their room if the change relates to choice rather than need.	Who decides on when it is 'need' and when 'choice'?
Additional Expenditure Please add suggestions				

For 'grey areas' dependent on individual circumstances, judgments need to be reached through discussion with relevant parties ie the service user and/ or their circle of support (eg family members, advocate, social worker, the Carer, Scheme representative) then the decision recorded. This safeguards both service users and Carers.