

Helping you pay for social care

Deferred payment agreements



The Care Act 2014 aims to help make care and support more consistent across the country.

Care and support is the term used to describe the help some adults need to live as well as possible with any illness or disability they may have. It can include help with things like washing, dressing, eating, getting out and about and keeping in touch with family or friends. If you receive care and support or you support someone as a carer, you could benefit from a deferred payment agreement.

Choosing a deferred payment agreement

A deferred payment agreement is an arrangement with the council that enables some residents to use the value of their home to pay for their care and support costs.

If you are eligible, we will help pay your care and support costs on your behalf, so you don't have to immediately sell your home to cover these costs. You can delay repaying us until you choose to sell your home or until after you have passed away.

We will charge a small amount of interest on the amount owed to us and a fee for setting up the arrangement. The fee only covers the council's administration costs and is non-profit making. Please take a look at our schedule of fees and charges enclosed within this leaflet for more details.



Who can apply for a deferred payment?

In order to apply for a deferred payment, you must:

- Have savings and investments of less than £23,250 (not including the value of your home or pension fund)
- Be professionally assessed as requiring and be entering permanent residential / nursing care in a registered care home
- Own or have part legal ownership of your own home, which is not benefitting from a property disregard. Your home must also be registered with the Land Registry
- Have mental capacity to agree to a deferred payment or have a legally appointed agent willing to agree on your behalf

Considering your options


A deferred payment agreement will not be suitable for everyone, for example if you're still living in your own home this will not be appropriate for you. There's also other ways to pay for your care.

You could choose to rent out your property and use the income to cover the full cost of your care. There are advantages to this as you will not accrue a debt, be liable for deferred payment interest or administration charges and your property will be occupied. Your tenant will also pay all utility and council tax costs, which will reduce your outgoings.

There are also various equity release schemes available, which may be suitable for your personal circumstances.

You could also choose to pay the full cost of your care from any available income and savings / assets or alternatively a family member may choose to pay some or all of the cost for you.

We highly recommend that you obtain independent financial and legal advice before deciding which course of action is best for your circumstances.



Independent information and advice

SOLLA

0333 202 0454

www.societyoflaterlifeadvisers.co.uk

Age UK

0800 678 1174

www.ageuk.org.uk/money-matters

Money Advice Service

0800 138 7777

www.moneyadvice.service.org.uk

Unbiased

0800 023 6868

www.unbiased.co.uk

There's also additional information available on our website at
www.herefordshire.gov.uk/payingforcare

Applying for a deferred payment agreement

Please contact the council's Welfare and Financial Assessments Team: ☎ 01432 383444

✉ welfarerights@herefordshire.gov.uk

www.herefordshire.gov.uk/socialcare

Pensions Credit or State Pension 0800 731 0469

Attendance Allowance 0800 731 0122

Disability Living Allowance 0800 121 4600

Personal Independence payments 0800 121 4433

Universal Credit 0800 328 5644

Housing or Council Tax Reduction 01432 260333

benefits@herefordshire.gov.uk



Administration fees

Payable upon application ¹	£310.00
Reduced fee where application refused	£35.00

1. The administration fee can be included in the deferred payment agreement upon request but interest will be charged.

Interest rate charges - compound interest calculated daily

1 January – 30 June 2024	4.65%
---------------------------------	--------------

Past interest rate charges

1 July – 31 December 2023	3.43%
1 January – 30 June 2023	3.18%
1 July - 31 December 2022	1.55%
1 January - 30 June 2022	0.95%
1 July - 31 December 2021	0.75%
1 Jan - 30 June 2021	0.45%
1 July - 31 December 2020	1.05%
1 January - 30 June 2020	1.45%
1 July - 31 December 2019	1.45%
1 January - 30 June 2019	1.65%
1 July - 31 December 2018	1.85%
1 January - 30 June 2018	1.45%
1 July - 31 December 2017	1.65%
1 January - 30 June 2017	1.35%
1 July - 31 December 2016	1.85%
1 January - 30 June 2016	2.15%
1 July - 31 December 2015	2.25%

