



# Financial Assessments









### Charging for Adult Social Care

# The Financial Assessments Team – What we do

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#### The Financial Assessments Team is here to help

- The financial assessments team is here to support residents and their families through the financial journey when arranging care and support
- Our busy team helps residents understand if they are eligible for financial support to help towards the cost of their care, aiming to bring clarity to how the funding of their care will happen
- Together we deal with approximately 4000 financial assessments every year
- The team is made up of has 1 full time team support officer and one part time team support officer who help us manage the high volumes of incoming work and demands on our team
- We have 7 full time financial assessment officers and one part time. However additional work through Covid and Billing has meant not everyone is working full time on financial assessments



#### The Financial Assessments Team is here to help

- We have 4 Welfare information officers who help residents the completion of the financial assessment and signpost to support and preventative services as needed
- The team now also look after the billing of client contributions for adult social care contributions, helping with customer enquiries and working with corporate debt recovery colleagues
- We have an officer in the team that helps manage deferred payments arrangements for residents who wish to defer their residential care payments



#### The Financial Assessments Team is here to help, please ensure you direct your enquiry appropriately

The financial assessments team has the following key contacts that you can use;

Charging helpline: 020 8760 5676
General team enquiries: SocialServices.SSFAT@croydon.gov.uk
Billing enquiries: adultsocialcarebilling@croydon.gov.uk
Deferred payments: deferredpayments@croydon.gov.uk
Residential cases: residentialfa@croydon.gov.uk
Welfare Information Officers: welfareinformationofficers@croydon.gov.uk

If you know the name of the financial assessment officer please contact thém directly.

If you have questions about payments to providers, queries should be directed to either brokerage or payment team colleagues. To contact the payments team please email: SwiftPaymentTeam@croydon.gov.uk To contact the placements team please email: Placementsteam@croydon.gov.uk



#### Key points - The financial assessment journey

- Know who your Financial Assessment officer is ask Ryan Walsh or Tanya Kazakova if you do not know
- If a resident has more than £23,250 of their own money, they will be charged the full cost of their service
- If a resident is a full cost payer, they will be charged £260 pa if they ask
   LBC to arrange their non-residential care for them
- An incomplete financial assessment form could trigger a 28 day full cost policy
- If you do not have a correct CPLI loaded for your residents care, this will cause possible debt issues for residents and could cost LBC in over payments etc...
- It is important to remember to ensure your pre-assessment request is clicked to register with controcc



#### Key points - The financial assessment journey

 LBC are working hard to increase the number of direct payments.
 It is important to know that if we do not have a completed form for the resident, it will delay direct payments made to them

 Providers will be paid gross if we do not have a calculated client contribution for our resident. This results in money being claimed back from providers and residents being placed in a debt position until the contribution is calculated and the financial journey is complete. This is because charges are backdated to the start of service date. This causes unnecessary anxiety for residents and can costs LBC time and money.



#### **Best practise**;

- At the care assessment stage, email an editable PDF version of the financial assessment form to your resident, attaching our one page fact sheet, copying in welfareinformationofficers@croydon.gov.uk
- In your email, your can inform your residents as follows;

'It is important that you complete the attached financial assessment form and return it signed with information required, as detailed throughout the form. This should be returned as soon as possible, within 28 days from the start of your service. Delays in calculating your assessed contribution can cause unnecessary delays in confirmation of your funding arrangements. You should note that if you are assessed to pay a client contribution, it will be backdated to the start of your service. If you have personal savings in excess of £23,250 you can complete section 2 of the financial assessment form. Please be aware that you will be asked to pay a fee of £260 per year, if you are assessed as not eligible for support with funding, but you ask the council to arrange your care for you. If you do not return your financial assessment form, it will be treated as non-disclosure of information and we will charge you the full cost of services you receive.

Completed forms should be returned to <a href="SocialServices.SSFAT@croydon.gov.uk">SocialServices.SSFAT@croydon.gov.uk</a>

If you need help completing the financial assessment form or you would like to talk about it, please contact one of our Welfare Information Officers who can be contacted by email on <a href="mailto:welfareinformationofficers@croydon.gov.uk">welfareinformationofficers@croydon.gov.uk</a> or call our helpline on 020 8760 5676, asking to speak to a welfare information officer'



#### Key points to understand

Care and support assessment



Financial
Assessment
Form to be
completed



Calculate how much, if anything, you pay towards care services



#### Key points to understand



Croydon charging policy is written in accordance with the Care Act 2014

Customers are financially assessed fairly and consistently



Income collected is used to continue to provide services to those in need









#### How we calculate the charge

The calculation used to determine how much contribution a resident will need to pay;

Income *less* expenditure *less* allowances = client contribution per week

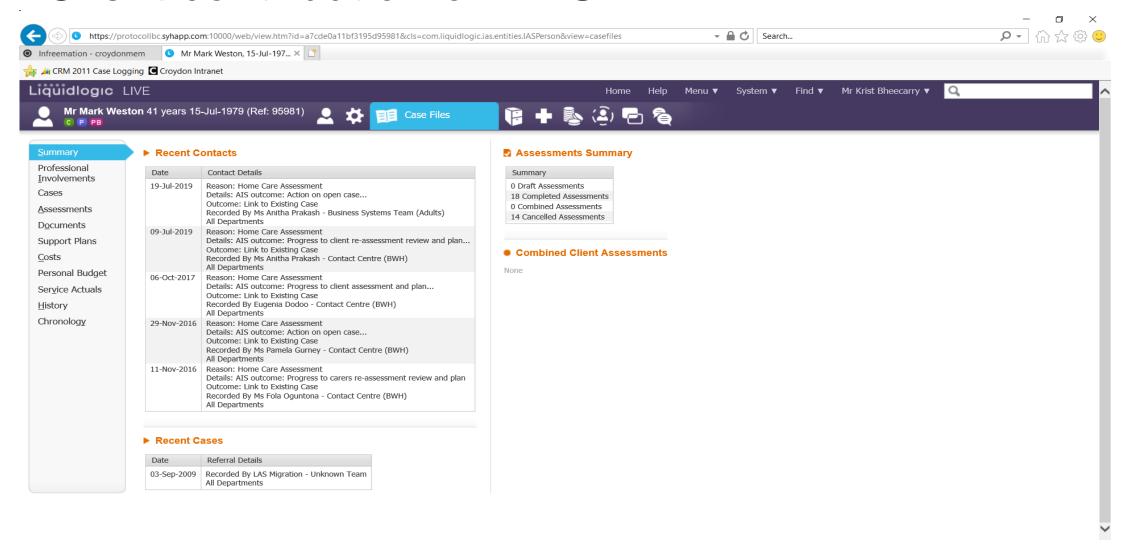
Different rules / calculations are used depending on the type of service being provided. These are broadly different for non-residential, community based services and residential care and nursing home placements.

The key differences are;

- How we treat property / assets you own
- The amount of money we ignore to cover day to day living costs, minimum income guarantee

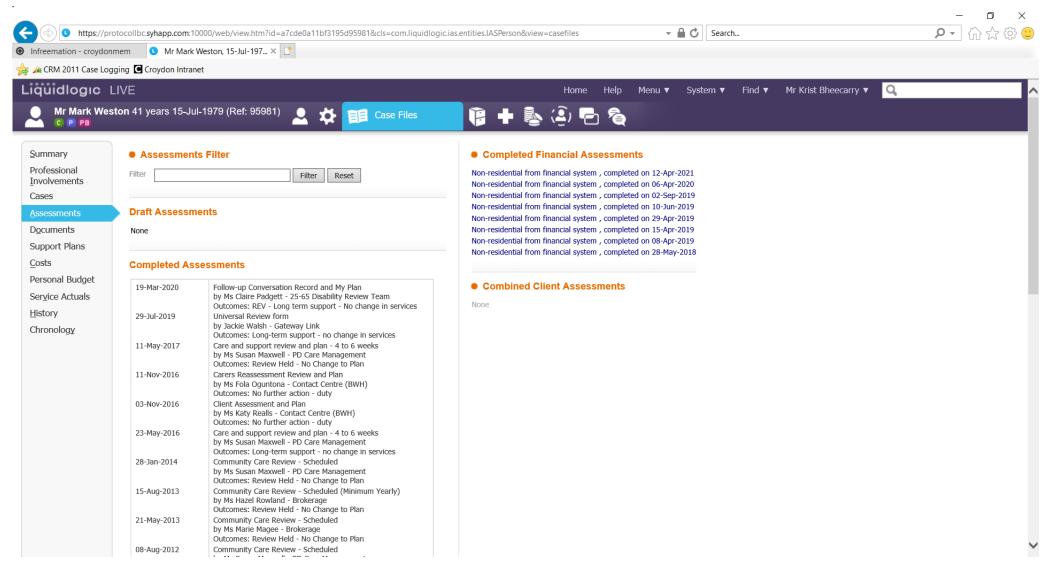


#### Client contribution on LAS

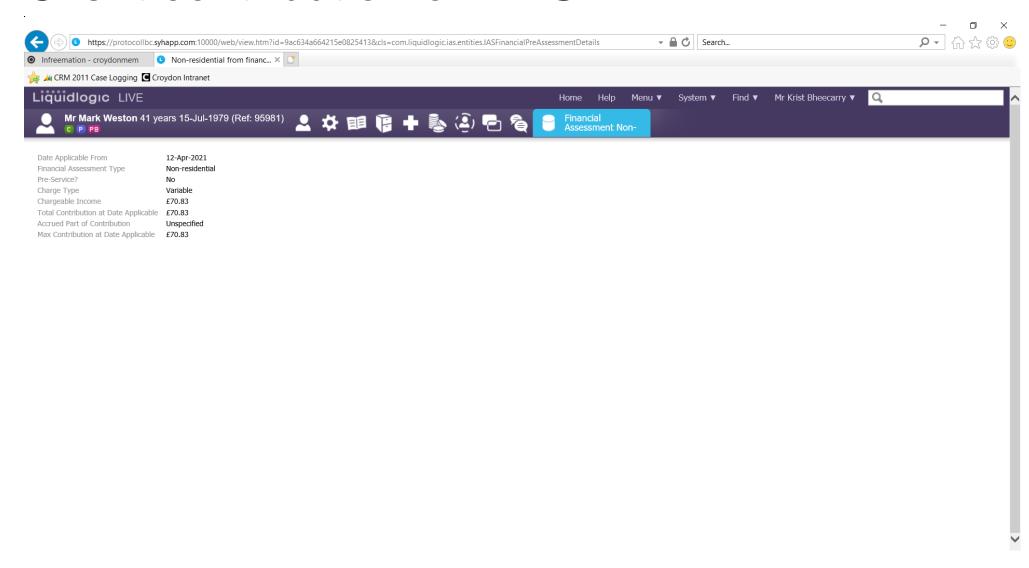




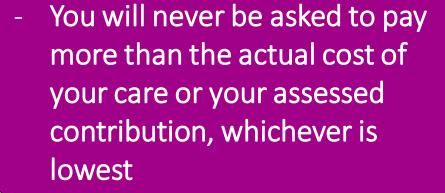
#### Client contribution on LAS



#### Client contribution on LAS



#### Key points for the resident to understand



 Expenses applicable to you can be considered e.g. Council tax, rent, disability related expenditure such as incontinence costs



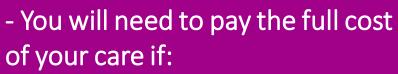






#### Key points for the resident to understand





- You have savings or assets over £23,250
- You choose not to inform us about your financial circumstances
- You choose not to have a financial assessment



If any above circumstance applies, and you ask the council to arrange your non-residential care for you, a fee of £260 per annum is chargeable



#### Key points for the resident to understand



- The brokerage and placements team will determine how much your care will cost
- When calculating how much you can afford to pay, we will check you are receiving your maximum benefit entitlement including council tax, housing benefit, attendance allowance, travel services etc.
- Care charges will be backdated to the start of your service







#### Financial Abuse

- It is everyone's responsibility
- The financial assessment officer will scrutinise bank statements received
- Officers will query any unusual transactions with the representative or client including any large or regular transactions
- We also have a duty to ensure that abuse is not being made in terms of fraudulent claiming of benefits or non disclosure of taxes



#### Financial Abuse cont.....

- Examples include the need to report to our internal fraud department, any non disclosure of tax returns when charging for private care





- Liaising with Council Tax and Housing Benefit teams if we believe they are receiving benefit that they are not necessarily entitled to
- Sending referrals to Office of Public Guardian if we feel that a POA is being abused
- Referrals sent to Safeguarding Adults team for all concerns or investigations we have with a clients' finances



## Any questions





