Useful information on the Respite Care Service Scheme

Access this and other information on the web at www.wakefield.gov.uk

Social Care Direct, your first point of contact if you or someone you know need social care services, or if you have any concerns about the safety or well being of a child, adult or older person.

0345 8 503 503

www.wakefield.gov.uk
About the Service
Respite or short term care offers care for service users in need of services and also gives carers a break from looking after a disabled person, someone who is severely ill or frail older person. Carers are able to take a break when they most need it, knowing that the person they look after is safe and receiving good care.

- The respite care service gives carers the freedom to decide when and where they take a break from caring.
- It also allows all service users who have been identified as having a care need to be cared for in an agreed and appropriate manner.

Who can apply?
The service is available to service users and carers of people who have been identified as having a care need. If you are providing regular and substantial care for a person ask Wakefield Council to look at your needs as well as those of the person you are caring for. This is called a Care Assessment. If you are a carer the person carrying out the care assessment will tell you about the types of help and support that are available to you and the person you care for and the ones for which you are eligible.

If you are assessed as needing respite care, you will agree with the Care Manager the level of care required over that financial year.

Financial Information
To be eligible for financial assistance for the service, the person you are caring for has to have savings of less than the applicable capital limit for that financial year. Although you are likely to be the person who arranges the care and pays the bills, the care assessment is based on the needs of the person you are caring for.

How does the service work?
You will be given details regarding the number of weeks of respite care recommended in the care assessment. The service allows the service user to have respite in an agreed and appropriate placement up to the maximum number of weeks identified in the care assessment.

When you want to use the Service, contact your Care Manager who will assist you with your arrangements. Your care plan will identify how many weeks you need.

It is important to contact your Care Manager so that other services can be suspended and started again when you need them.

How much do I pay?
Subject to you having less than the upper capital limit for that financial year the standard rate will be charged (please see website for current rates).

If you have more than the capital limit you will be required to pay the full cost for your respite service.

How do I pay?
- If you have a respite stay in a Wakefield Council, Local Authority Home you will receive a statement from the Payments & Income Team to confirm the amount owing.
- If you have a respite stay in an Independent Sector Home you will need to pay the home direct.
- If your respite is part of the Shared Lives Scheme and your personal budget is managed by Wakefield Council you will receive a statement from the Payment & Income Team to confirm the amount owing.
- If your respite is part of the Shared Lives Scheme and you receive a Personal Budget Cash Direct Payment then your payments will be made net of your weekly contribution.

What happens if the weekly contribution does not appear to take into account my usual income and expenses?
You can ask for a full financial assessment to be completed. A Welfare Rights & Assessment Advisor will assist you in completing a financial circumstances form detailing all your income and current expenses. However, different types of income and expenditure are not taken into account or allowed in the financial assessment so your weekly contribution may not necessarily be less than the current standard rate.

If you would like any more information about the scheme, please contact your Care Manager.

Other useful numbers
Social Care Direct on 0345 8 503 503
Personalisation & Assessment Team Helpline 01924 307317