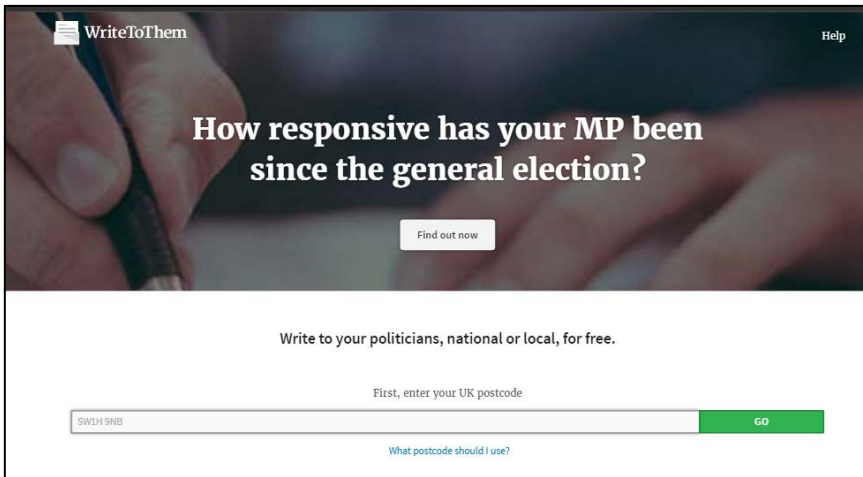


Dumfries & Galloway Care Charges

EASY READ

Briefing notes for Writing To and Meeting Councillors

Find your councillors at the www.writetothem.com website



Enter your post code, the website will tell you who your councillors are and will let you send them a message.



SURGERIES

It is good to go and visit your local councillor. They are happy for you to meet them. Ask to meet them in your email.



WHAT TO TELL COUNCILLORS

All the councillors know now that there is a worry about charges. So you need to tell them how it affects you.

Take all the letters you have about charges with you including any from last year and from this year.

If you want you can tell them what is wrong with the charges going up. Here are some suggestions.



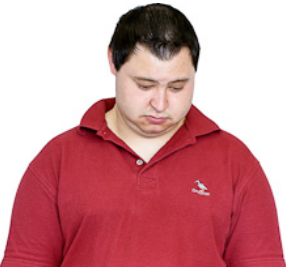
1. Raising Charges is unfair

The Scottish Government thought that some of the charging was unfair and gave Dumfries and Galloway £182,400 to make it better for people.

But Dumfries and Galloway Council now said that the Income Allowance for people under 65 was to go down from £177 to £132 per week.

At the same time the tax rate that people paid on the extra income they had about the Income Allowance went up from 55% to 65%.

This will make it much harder for disabled people.



2. There is a big effect on the disabled people involved

The increase for every disabled person under 65 in Dumfries and Galloway getting social care will be between £25 and £40 per week.

They will have to pay this as well as what they had to pay last year.

Some people will now be asked to pay as much as £70-80 per week.



3. No other people in Dumfries and Galloway are being asked to pay this much extra.

The annual amount that disabled people are being asked to pay is between £1,250 and £2,000 per year.

No other section of the population has been asked to make such an additional contribution to local council finances.



We think this is very unfair as many disabled people are in need of help and dependent on care and support and not good at complaining.

4. Many Disabled People will always be on benefits

Many disabled people do not work and don't have much money.

The Dumfries and Galloway financial assessment for care charges takes no account of what people need to spend in their own lives.

Disabled People pay more for many ordinary things in the community. It is hard for many to get out to the biggest and cheapest supermarket. People have to pay for their clubs and activities. Taxi travel can quickly eat up the limited amount people get in mobility benefits and eat into their other money. They need more money to just get by.

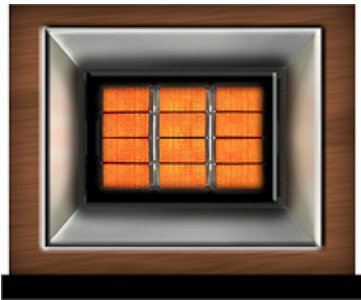


5. Disability Related Expenditure is too hard for people to work out

This is the extra costs of things that have because of your disability.

If you have to keep your house warmer because you are disabled then the extra costs of heating your house is counted as Disability Related Expenditure. But how do you know what it normally costs to heat your house if you have always had a disability?

The same thing applies to laundry, special food, clothing and so. In practice, this is so complicated only a handful of people in Dumfries and Galloway get this.



4. WHAT CAN COUNCILLORS DO



**Ask the councillor to think again about the decision.
Maybe they can change it**



**Ask the councillor if your care charges are right and can
they be reduced.**

Ian Hood

Learning Disability Alliance Scotland

5th October 2016