



Choice and Top Up Policy

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Adult Social Care is currently seeking feedback on the draft Choice and Top Up Policy – this is a new policy.

Why has a limit been set a 1hour travel distance?

Currently there is no maximum distance when considering the most appropriate placement for someone. The priority is to meet their social care eligible needs. Therefore this proposal is to enable wherever possible the individual to maintain their connections with family and friends. All individual circumstances will be considered and the care offer must meet all eligible social care needs including emotional and psychological.

Is the 1 hour limit based on using public transport?

The distance of 1 hour is based upon traveling by car. The primary focus for the council is to ensure that people receive the right support to meet their needs. This will include looking at any impact on an individual's psychological and emotional well-being.

Will anyone ever be offered a placement which is over the suggested 1 hour distance?

Yes – it would be wrong for the council to say no to this. If there is a need for someone to have specialist care and the only available placement is over this distance then it will be considered. A placement may also be considered if there are no other alternatives, this may be considered as a short term solution.

What is a Top Up

A Top up is the difference between what the Council can meet eligible needs for and what the provider of choice is charging. The Top Up is the difference.

If a placement is found and the third party paying the Top Up stops or runs out of money will the council pay?

The council is unlikely to pick up the extra cost; they would work with the individual and their family to find a placement which can meet the person's needs within the assessed personal budget. Individuals, families/representative need to consider this when making their decisions