

Councillors Briefing Note

No. 323

Service: Adult Care Strategy and Commissioning
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Date Prepared: 15th March 2017
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Introduction

Changes to the way War Pensions are considered in determining contributions for care and support come into effect on April 10th. The change will be implemented through a change to Annex C to the Care Act (2014).

War Pensions are provided to veterans injured on active service before 6 April 2005. Veterans injured on active service after this time receive the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) which is already disregarded from the financial assessment (since 2012).

From 10 April, all payments to veterans under the War Pension Scheme (with the exception of Constant Attendance Allowance which is specifically intended to pay for care) will also be fully disregarded in financial assessments, to bring this into line with the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme. Previously, only the first £10 a week was disregarded

Funding

The Government is providing [funding](#) to council's based on the number of war pensioners in their area and weighted by the relative needs formula for adult social care. Wiltshire is receiving £323k funding from the government for this, recognising that there are 2205 War Pensioners in Wiltshire.

Wiltshire Council already disregards War Pension income in assessments for housing benefit and council tax reduction through its locally agreed policies.

Implementing the change in Wiltshire

Wiltshire Council will prepare a press release informing people of this change and asking people to contact the Finance and Benefits (FAB) team, this will also be made available via the Council's website and the your care your support information portal. This website developed by Wiltshire Council and Health watch Wiltshire includes a

range of information for people who may need care and support including [information on paying for care and support services](#) and [advice for veterans](#). The site can be accessed via this [link](#).

Individuals who contact the Council will just be required to prove evidence of the relevant War Pension and contributions will be adjusted accordingly. People who want to know more or to tell the Council that they are in receipt of a War Pension so we can adjust any contributions for care and support need to call 01249 706098. In addition to this FAB officers will regularly review charges for care and support and will actively identify people who receive this benefit. Contributions will be backdated to the date the legislation came into effect.

Commissioners will work with the corporate office and the Ministry of Defense (MOD) to discuss contacting everyone in receipt of a War Pension to inform them of the change.

Questions and More information

For more information please contact olly.spence@wiltshire.gov.uk