What do I need to do?

All you need to do to apply for a Financial Assessment is ask your support provider to give you an application request form to sign, you don’t need to disclose any financial information at this stage.

Your support provider will fill in their details and send the form back to Merton Council’s Financial Assessment team. The team will then forward you a Financial Assessment Information pack with a Financial Assessment form, which you need to complete with your financial details and return to them.

The Financial Assessment team will contact you with the outcome of the assessment and notify the Supporting People team.

If you would like any further information about Fairer Charging contact your service provider or the Supporting People team on:

020 8545 3844
supportingpeople@merton.gov.uk
or log on to www.merton.gov.uk/supporting-people

If you would like more information in your own language, please contact us at the address shown in the box below

Information is also available in large print, in Braille and on tape

Public Information Officer
3rd Floor, Merton Civic Centre,
Morden SM4 5DX
Telephone: 020 8545 3475

FAIRER CHARGING
How to get help with your Support Charge

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What is it?
If you are currently living in supported accommodation and pay a Support Charge, you may be entitled to help with this under the Fairer Charging Policy. This Policy is a means tested Financial Assessment to determine your ability to contribute to Support Charges. A Financial Assessment will work out if you can afford to pay your Support Charge or if you can obtain funding from Supporting People.

Who is it for?
If you receive any Housing Benefit, all your support, including any Support Charge, should already be paid for so you will not need a Financial Assessment. If you are paying your Support Charge you will need to tell your service provider you are on Housing Benefit and they will tell the Supporting People team. If you have applied but do not qualify for Housing Benefit, a Financial Assessment could find out if you are entitled to help with your Support Charge.

If you have savings of over £21,000 you will not qualify for help, unless there are special reasons, which you would have to tell us about.

How does it work?
In order to find out if you can get help with your Support Charge, Merton Council’s Financial Assessment team can conduct a Financial Assessment. They will need to look at what income, savings and outgoings you may have. You will need to provide information to help the assessment such as pension books, bank statements and housing costs.

The assessment can take place in your own home with anyone you wish to be with you, such as a friend or relative. You can also choose someone to be at the assessment instead of you, as long as they have access to the information that will be needed.

Due to Data Protection laws they will need to have appointeeship from the Department of Work and Pensions or Power of Attorney. Alternatively, you can make an appointment with the Financial Assessment team and the assessment can take place at the Merton Civic Centre.

Once an assessment is done, the Financial Assessment team will then decide how much of the Support Charge should be paid by you. This might be all of it, some of it or none of it.