

Adult Social Care Funding

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has made an offer to adult social care authorities. (“Adult social care authorities” are local authorities which have functions under Part 1 of the Care Act 2014, namely county councils in England, district councils for an area in England for which there is no county council, London borough councils, the Common Council of the City of London and the Council of the Isles of Scilly.)

The offer is the option of an adult social care authority being able to charge an additional “precept” on its council tax for financial years from the financial year beginning in 2016 without holding a referendum, to assist the authority in meeting expenditure on adult social care. Subject to the annual approval of the House of Commons, the Secretary of State intends to offer the option of charging this “precept” at an appropriate level in each financial year up to and including the financial year 2019-20.”

How the Government asked for the Adult Social Care precept to be shown on your bill

In the interests of transparency, the Government decided that the Adult Social Care (ASC) Precept should be displayed as a separate item on council tax bills and changed the relevant legislation. From 2017-18 onwards, this means that two separate charges and percentage increases are displayed on the bill: one specifically for the precept, which will only be spent on ASC; and one for the rest of its council tax charge, which the authority can use for any of its functions.

The cash figure for the ASC Precept represents its cumulative value since the scheme started in 2016-17. So, for example, if an authority charged £20 in 2016-17 and charges a further £22 in 2017-18, a cash amount of £42 will be displayed. The percentage increase figures show the number of percentage points which increases for ASC precept and general expenditure each contribute to the overall increase set by the authority. So, in a situation where an ASC authority sets a 5% increase in 2017-18, comprising 2% for general expenditure and 3% for the proposed new amount of the ASC Precept, the bill will show increases of 2% and 3% respectively.

Calculating the Band D Precept for Warrington Borough Council – 2018/19

Precepts from 2017/18		WBC	£1,254.19
		ASC	£61.71
		Total	£1,315.90
Calculation			
WBC 2017/18			£1,254.19
2.98% of Total from 2017/18	= £1,315.90 x 2.98%		£39.21
WBC 2018/19	= £1,254.19 + £39.21		£1,293.40
ASC 2017/18			£61.71
3% of Total from 2017/18	= £1,315.90 x 3%		£39.48
ASC 2018/19	= £61.71 + £39.48		£101.19
Total Precept for 2018/19	= £1,293.40 + £101.19		£1,394.59

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