

Care and Support Charging and Financial Assessment Framework



Reading
Borough Council
Working better with you

2020 - 2021

Appendix D: Affordability Checker for Couples

Affordability Checker (non-residential care and support)

If you live with a partner who is on a low income¹, you and your partner can ask us to carry out an affordability check of your joint situation to ensure the level of Minimum Income Guarantee used in your financial assessment prevents your joint financial resources from falling below the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) minimum levels.

Service User's Minimum Income Guarantee ² Level:	£	
Partner's Income:	£	
Less Partner's 50% housing cost share:	-£	
Partner's net income:	£	
Service User's Minimum Income Guarantee Level plus Partner's net income:		£A
Couple Personal Allowance (for DWP benefits):		£B

If the value of £A is greater than or equal to the value of £B no adjustment is needed to the Minimum Income Guarantee level within the assessment.

If the value of £A is less than the value of £B we will adjust the Minimum Income Guarantee level by the value of (£B - £A)

Example 1:

Service User's Minimum Income Guarantee Level:	£ 144.30	
Partner's Income:	£ 116.50	
Less Partner's 50% housing cost share:	-£2.00	
Partner's net income:	£114.50	
Service User's Minimum Income Guarantee Level plus Partner's net income:		£258.80 (A)
Couple Personal Allowance (for DWP benefits):		£255.25 (B)

¹ 'Low income' relates to income (including tariff income from savings) below Department for Work and Pensions minimum allowance/personal allowance levels for benefits.

² Minimum Income Guarantee is the minimum amount that must be allowed in the financial assessment for everyday living costs.

£A is more than £B, so no need to adjust the Minimum Income Guarantee level.

Example 2:

Service User's Minimum Income Guarantee ³ Level:	£ 144.30	
Partner's Income:	£ 80.50	
Less Partner's 50% housing cost share:	-£2.00	
Partner's net income:	£78.50	
Service User's Minimum Income Guarantee Level plus Partner's net income:		£222.80 (A)
Couple Personal Allowance (for DWP benefits):		£255.25 (B)

£A is less than the value of £B, so we will increase the Minimum Income Guarantee level by the value of $(£B - £A) = (£255.25 - £222.80) = £32.45$.

The adjusted Minimum Income Guarantee Level will be $(£144.30 + £32.45) = £176.75$

³ Minimum Income Guarantee is the amount of allowance that must be considered in the financial assessment for everyday living costs.