Torbay and Southern Devon Health and Care NHS Trust

Third Party Contributions

April 2014

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Right Care, Right Place, Right Time

Third Party Contributions

What is a "Third Party Contribution"?

A Third Party contribution is an additional payment required on top of your assessed charge if you choose to move to accommodation which is more expensive then Torbay and Southern Devon Health and Care NHS Trust will pay. Full details regarding choice of accommodation and its full meaning are available in the document 'Choice of Accommodation Act' available at www.**doh.gov.uk**

The National Assistance Act (1948) states that the following people can make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of another person's stay in a Care Home:

- A relative, including a spouse except when they have been assessed to make a contribution towards the assessed charge
- A friend
- Any other source (e.g. a charity)

A contribution from any of these sources is referred to as a "Third Party Contribution".

Further details can be found at www.doh.gov in the 'Choice of Accommodation Act' which details Local Authorities responsibilities.

What is the benefit of a Third Party Contribution?

A Third Party Contribution gives you the right to choose to move into more expensive accommodation than Torbay and Southern Devon Health and Care NHS Trust would normally offer to someone with your assessed social care needs.

How will this affect my financial assessment?

The National Assistance Act says that if a Third Party Contribution is made it should be treated as part of your weekly income when calculating the contributions you will be asked to make towards your care.

How is a Third Party Contribution calculated?

A Third Party Contribution is calculated as:

- The actual charge for your preferred accommodation minus
- The amount Torbay and Southern Devon Health and Care NHS Trust would normally expect to pay for your assessed social care needs

For example; if you chose to move to a room costing £350 per week and Torbay and Southern Devon Health and Care NHS Trust assess your needs as £340 weekly, the balance of £10 would need to be met by a "third party".

Can I make my own Third Party Payments?

Most residents under a Torbay and Southern Devon Health and Care NHS Trust contract cannot top up their own fees, however in specific circumstances, you may act as your own "third Party": -

- When you enter permanent care your property will be considered as a capital asset after the first 12 weeks. If the property is valued at more than £23,250 in certain circumstances you may top up your agreed fee from your own resources.

What arrangements will be necessary for a Third Party Contribution?

There are several things you must be clear about in relation to Third Party Contributions:

- You will need to agree with the Third Party how they will pay their contribution to you or the Care Home.

- It is the responsibility of the third party payer to ensure that they are able to continue to pay the third party top up. Should the top up payment cease, Torbay and Southern Devon Health and Care NHS Trust (the Care Trust) will have no obligation to continue to pay the third party equivalent amount The Care Trust would reassess the client's needs and ensure that they are met. However, this may mean that the care may be delivered in a different setting with the home or in a different home entirely. The potential for the client to be moved must be considered by anyone undertaking a third party top up where the top up payment ceases for any reason.

- The Third Party contribution will be included in the accounts you or your representatives are sent for your care.

- The fees Torbay and Southern Devon Health and Care NHS Trust pay a care homes are normally increased on the 1st April each year. The same percentage increase may be applied on the Third Party payment.

- The amount of the third party contribution is not dependent on the capital assets or the income of the person receiving care.

An illustration of the amount that a third party payer may have to commit to over a period is shown below together with an area to create an example pertinent to your own situation.

Top Up Ready Reckoner	per week (£ a)	per month = £a x 4	per year (£a x 52)	3 years £a x 156
Care Home amount paid by Care Trust	£427	1,836	22,204	66,612
Top up by third party (Example)	£25	108	1,300	3,900
Insert your top-up				

How to contact Torbay and Southern Devon Health and Care NHS Trust

For initial contact with Torbay and Southern Devon Health and Care NHS Trust for social care services our main office is at:

Union House
Union Street
Torquay TQ1 3AY
Telephone: 01803 219700

A range of leaflets is available which provides information about the work of TSDHCT and the types of services that we can offer. In addition, we hold a range of information from other organisations and agencies. Copies of all Torbay and Southern Devon Health and Care NHS Trusts' leaflets and information about other organisations who may be able to help you, are available from Torbay and Southern Devon Health and Care NHS Trust offices. If you are able to access our website: http://www.torbaycaretrust.nhs.uk - our leaflets are available to read or print off from there.

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This document can be available in other languages and formats. For more information telephone 01803 219700

Partners in Care

Ref: FAB Service— April 2013