FACE resource allocation system (RAS)
Process used by Devon County Council

Personal budgets
Why have a RAS approach
Technical information
Standardised costs
Commissioning process

Personal budgets -
We are increasing the choice and control people have for any support they require to meet their eligible social care needs, by the use of estimated budgets. You may find it helpful to also read Factsheet 9 Personal Budgets, which explains more about how you can manage your social care money.

An estimated Budget may be available to you if an assessment of your needs shows you are eligible for support and assistance from us. We can discuss this with you at the time, or you can read the Factsheet FS1 Assessment and Fair Access to Care.

Why a RAS approach?
The Government is committed to the personalisation agenda and increasing the proportion of people that are offered a personal budget to meet their eligible social care needs. There is strong evidence that people exercising genuine control over their support solutions achieve better outcomes.

In order to move towards a more personalised approach we must have systems that

- Allow the available resources to be shared amongst those eligible according to need.
- Encourage genuine control of those resources - by providing early visibility of the amount likely to be available in order to allow informed decisions about support options
- Do not constrain support options according to traditional services.

A RAS approach is the nationally accepted way of achieving these objectives.

What is a (Resource Allocation System) RAS? An effective personal budget approach will allow the person eligible for support to know, up front and early, what their budget is likely to be. This is so that they can begin to plan the support they need.

In order to be able to do this councils need a way of being able to estimate the budget the person might get (the actual sum received may be greater or smaller depending upon the service user’s personal situation and the local cost and availability of the particular type of support required).

The RAS is a process developed by FACE that estimates the cost of care for a typical person with the needs and available support identified within their social care assessment.

How does the RAS calculate an Estimated Budget?

The FACE estimated budget process is based on the information provided in the assessment about the person’s needs and circumstances. Specifically scores and information provided about:
• Physical health
• Involvement in the community
• Relationships with Family and Friends
• Safety
• Involvement in work, education and training
• Mobility
• Support needs for Personal care
• Day to day activities
• Support currently available from family, friends and/or other local people or services.

The process uses this information for a series of behind the scenes mathematical calculations. These calculations have subtle differences depending on if you are an older person or have a physical or learning disability. This then produces the estimated budget which is designed to provide an accurate estimate of the cost of care to meet the needs recorded.

The FACE process was developed by looking at the scores and support packages of thousands of people both nationally and specifically in Devon. This information was then used to ensure that the RAS software provides as accurate a prediction possible of the costs of meeting people’s needs based upon their scores in an assessment.

This estimated budget is exactly that – an ‘estimate’ based on the need described in the assessment and a projection of an amount of funds that we would expect to be typically sufficient to meet the needs recorded. It does not of course reflect individual circumstances or geographical variations that may vary from person to person.

Using your estimated budget
The information from the assessment and your estimated budget will be used to develop an affordable support plan with you. It is important that you say how you would like support provided as you should have as much choice and control as you are able or wish.

You are able to purchase support yourselves through a direct payment or adult social care can do this on your behalf or you can choose a mixture of both.

Once we agree your support plan with you, the amount it costs will be your personal budget.

Your personal budget may be more or less than your estimated budget, and this will depend upon your personal circumstances and the local availability of the support that you need. We may also ask you to contribute towards the cost of your support, based on an assessment of your financial circumstances. Personal budget could be higher or lower depending on individual circumstances.

TECHNICAL additional information

Assessment and financial modelling used to calculate estimated budgets,

FACE recording and measurement systems, www.face.eu.com hold intellectual property rights for the FACE RAS solution.
Devon uses the FACE overview assessment to inform financial modelling that has been developed by FACE.

Clearly identified questions are used within the assessment to give important detail, primarily focused on:
- The needs the person has
- The number of people, type or frequency of support needed
- The availability of informal support
- The interrelationship between the above

Devon has provided FACE with the standardised costs as detailed below to aid their matching of the assessment to the actual cost of support in Devon.

**Differences for client groups of people**

FACE have produced 3 similar but distinct processes based on evidence of costs for:
- Older people
- People with a Physical disability
- People with a learning disability

These distinctions are currently used to ensure the FACE RAS estimated budget is as accurate as possible. Differences within the model centre on:
- Subtle variation with how each group may require support; e.g. people may not need help with personal care, but could require high levels of support for other reasons
- Market variation for specialist providers in conjunction with above point

**Our current standardised costs**

a) users of learning disability services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Description</th>
<th>Standardised Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Care hourly rate – homecare, enabling, p.a. time (standardised)</td>
<td>14.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b) users of services for older people

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Description</th>
<th>Standardised Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day-care hourly cost (standardised), exclusive of transport costs</td>
<td>22.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daytime homecare hourly cost (standardised)</td>
<td>14.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Night home care (waking) hourly cost (standardised)</td>
<td>14.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Night home care (sleep in) hourly cost (standardised)</td>
<td>7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total nursing accommodation (N1 banding)</td>
<td>446.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total nursing accommodation cost (N2 banding)</td>
<td>461.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total residential accommodation cost (R3 banding)</td>
<td>390.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total residential accommodation cost (R4 banding)</td>
<td>426.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
c) Users of services for people with physical disabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day-care hourly cost (standardised), exclusive of transport costs</td>
<td>22.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daytime homecare hourly cost (standardised)</td>
<td>14.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Night home care (waking) hourly cost (standardised)</td>
<td>14.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Night home care (sleep in) hourly cost (standardised)</td>
<td>7.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total nursing home accommodation cost (standardised)</td>
<td>567.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total residential accommodation cost (standardised)</td>
<td>599.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total sensory case accommodation cost (standardised)</td>
<td>1100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Users of services for people with mental health problems

Devon County Council does not provide estimated budgets for service users with a primary need relating to “mental health”. For information about Mental Health please contact Devon Partnership NHS Trust

For additional information please see fact sheets for:
- Personal budgets
- Estimating your budgets
- Guide to Personal brokerage
- Direct payments

http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/socialcarehealth/personal-budgets.htm

http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/socialcarehealth/factsheets.htm