

Case study Assessment – financial assessment – The Care Act guidance has a section on light-touch financial assessment

It says in section 8.22 “Light-touch” financial assessments (page 135-136)

8.22. In some circumstances, a local authority may choose to treat a person as if a financial assessment had been carried out. In order to do so, the local authority must be satisfied on the basis of evidence provided by the person that they can afford, and will continue to be able to afford, any charges due. This is known as a “light-touch” financial assessment.

8.23. The main circumstances in which a local authority may consider carrying out a lighttouch financial assessment are:

(a) Where a person has significant financial resources, and does not wish to undergo a full financial assessment for personal reasons, but wishes nonetheless to access local authority support in meeting their needs. In these situations the local authority may accept other evidence in lieu of carrying out the financial assessment and consider the person to have financial resources above the upper limit.

(b) Where the local authority charges a small or nominal amount for a particular service (e.g. for subsidised services) which a person is clearly able to meet and would clearly have the relevant minimum income left, and carrying out a financial assessment would be disproportionate.

(c) When an individual is in receipt of benefits which demonstrate that they would not be able to contribute towards their care and support costs. This might include income from Jobseeker’s Allowance.