

## Why does my council tax bill include a separate line for adult social care?

Last year, the Government identified that councils that provide social care services are under increasing pressure for services at a time of reducing funding.

Therefore, the Chancellor of the Exchequer presented authorities across the country that deliver adult social care with the flexibility to raise an additional precept of up to two per cent without breaching the council tax referendum threshold. This must be used entirely for adult social care.

Adult social care services include helping people to live independently in their own homes or in residential care where necessary. Adults with physical and learning disabilities are also supported and funded by adult social care. A person's care needs are determined by an assessment by a social care assessor. Once a person has been deemed eligible, a care and support package is agreed with the person and their family. Some people are required to contribute towards the cost of their care if they meet set criteria (e.g. their level of savings and income).

This extra two per cent on the council tax is called the adult social care precept and can only be used to fund extra costs of adult social care. Demand for adult social care is increasing; the costs of care packages are increasing; and the government's announcement to introduce the National Living Wage alone is estimated to cost almost all of the extra income due to be raised from the precept.

That is why North Yorkshire County Council, along with almost every eligible authority nationally, has taken up the government's offer to raise this additional precept. Without this precept, the County Council would have to find additional savings of around £21m up to 2020.

## How is the adult social care precept calculated?

The adult social care precept is calculated as a percentage of the total County Council council tax, as illustrated in the example below.

2018-19	
North Yorkshire County Council - Band D	£1,180.18
Adult social care precept	£68.67
North Yorkshire County Council total	£1,248.85

The precept percentage increase above is calculated based upon the total North Yorkshire County Council charge in 2017-18 (i.e. £1,189.50) so:  $£1,189.50 \times 2\% = £23.79$

This is then added to the adult social care precept from 2017-18 of £44.88 resulting in a total adult social care precept of £68.67.