Appendix C: The financial assessment process

Excerpt taken from:
[*Paying for your Care at Home*, Hampshire County Council, July 2016]

This explains what Hampshire County Council does, and does not, take into account when conducting a financial assessment:

Your Financial Information

This list is a guide to the money you have coming in and going out that we need to know about to make sure you only pay what you can afford towards your care costs. Please read through this list before your financial assessment and gather together the documents and any receipts that will help work out the money you have available to pay for your care.

Your Savings:

If you have less than £23,250 (2016/17) or when your savings fall below this amount, the financial assessment will look at both your savings and income.

Examples of your money and assets that you WOULD NOT need to use to pay for your care services

- The value of the home you live in
- Savings below £14,250
- Income from employment
- Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments (PIP) Mobility components
- Pension Credit savings credit
- Age related payments, such as the Winter Fuel Allowance
- Income and savings of your husband, wife or registered civil partner or anyone else you live with. There are exceptions as below.

Your money and assets that you WOULD need to use to pay for your care services

- Savings between £14,250 and £23,250 (2016/17). These are converted into your 'tariff income' (that is, for every £250 or part thereof, £1 a week is added to your income).
- The value of any property you own but are not living in
- Cash over £250
- Certain compensation payments
- Pensions – Pension Credit guarantee credit, retirement, work/private pensions
- Annuities
- Charitable payments
- Income support
- Employment & Support allowance

- Attendance allowance
- Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments (PIP) (Care components)
- Incapacity benefit
- Severe disablement allowance
- Joint money – only where you have a legal entitlement to your partner's income; or welfare benefits for both are paid to one of you; or you have a joint bank or building society account.

Your Outgoings – expenses which mean this money WOULD NOT be used to pay for your care services.

- Your share of household expenses such as mortgage payments, rent, council tax. (We would deduct any housing or council tax benefits you receive).
- Disability related expenses. We will consider any expenses that you incur as a result of your disability which have not been included in your personal budget. Here are some examples which may apply:

  - Special equipment e.g. stair lifts, extra bedding/laundry
  - Approved personal care you wish to continue to pay for privately
  - Certain transport costs (unless you receive the DLA or PIP mobility allowance)
  - Special diet which is a medical requirement, (for the difference, if more expensive than regular products)

- General living expenses such as food and clothing. We must use standard allowances set by the Government.

How we use this information

- Your outgoings are deducted from your income to produce your **net assessable income**.
- You will not be asked to pay more than this, unless your financial circumstances change.

The FAB team will then give you a summary of how your maximum weekly contribution (the maximum amount you will pay towards your care each week, unless your financial circumstances change) is worked out normally during their visit.