

Appendix 4

'Should concessionary fees apply to those receiving in/out of work benefits?'

Yes = 62.57% (341 respondents) No = 37.43% (204)

Comments for 'Should concessionary fees apply to those receiving in/out of work benefits?'

Many culture services are "free" anyway (Parks). It may also stigmatise those on benefits if they were to get cheaper fees.

if someone can afford to use a service they should pay. if they cant they should have help. it shouldn't be down to personal characteristics like age. I totally disagree with free swimming for over 60's. how can it be justified when many 60 year olds are financially stable, still in work and able to pay.

The council should see helping those that are more vulnerable as its priority.

Needs to be Affordable to pensioners and improves health of population

people on low incomes should always have the use of these facilities, still pay but at a discount but everytime use, because the benefits may change within the year

Answered no because I have no opinion and there wasn't an option for that.

Only disability allowance.

Without it I'd be unable to afford to swim as it's a ridiculous amount otherwise

Everyone should have access to services whether they can afford it or not so lowering the price for certain people might get them to use it more

Everyone should pay the same price

They deserve cheaper prices.

Unemployed should not be disadvantaged

They already receive benefits so should not receive any further subsidies

It's good value already

My mom is 84

Because I work I should not be charged more

No I think people on benefits get enough for nothing give the working people a break for once

I used to have a Reddicard. I'm a single parent who works part time. Redditch has a very diverse population and facilities should be available for all to use.

Only for family activities. Not gym membership etc.

Amenities should be as inclusive as possible

I am retired

Same should apply to all

Encourages them to stay out of work for longer

Facilities should be affordable to all, not just discounted for those in benefits.

To encourage their children to still have good opportunities for leisure, development, sport

Having previously been in this position, there is not much expendable income to pay for extras such as clubs or gym membership

They get enough already because they are on benefits.

Keep active whilst out of work may help reduce local nhs impact

Only for those who can't work not won't work.

Comments for 'Should concessionary fees apply to those receiving in/out of work benefits?'

I think there should be a level of concession for those receiving in/out of work benefits but not to the detriment of those of us who aren't in receipt of benefits. We cannot afford to subsidise to a high level but recognise the need for all to be able to access services/facilities.

Services need to be accessible for all. Those on low incomes particularly need help to engage

But only if disabled or a person has medical conditions

No matter how good your services are, if they are not affordable they will not be used - particularly by those who may need it most. Leisure and cultural services link closely with health and social care including health promotion, mental health, as well as combating loneliness. This can lead to an improved society. I think there needs to be a better link between local governments and NHS / Social services. This means more partnership working (working smarter!) not just more money.

I pay a lot of tax that is wasted to be given to other people or wasted on pointless 'services' like this. They should pay their way

Working families are just as low on disposable income

It depends. As someone on low wage but no benefits I do get cross that I cannot afford things that maybe people on benefits can. Not against benefit concession per se, just sometimes seems unfair to people in low pay employment.

To find facilities when on a low income or benefits is important for individuals and families, not only for their well being but for their physical and mental health. If it is available and affordable they will still be able to feel part of their community otherwise it is another point of 'difference' and isolation

Yes if they are truly in need

Why should those that work but receive a low income get penalised when some that don't work get paid more in benefits and can benefit from concessions etc

Supporter of justice and related policies

I was on maternity leave and had decided to take a year off. I signed up for a swimming class and was told it was £40. Those on benefits could pay £10. I was unpaid at the time of my but didn't qualify. It just led to segregation and anger from many parents. It should be the same cost for everyone.

Concessions should apply to those who have worked and are now on less due to their pension, maybe even students struggling to pay for their tuition but for everyone else it should be the same, why should those who work hard have to pay more than someone who gets benefits and doesn't work, seems the harder you work the worse off you are

Especially for children who deserve to use these facilities but cannot due to parents being unable to work (particularly those who are affected by disabled family members)

Personal point here-I've never received benefits why should I be penalised?

Many working people/families have little disposable income and they need help to engage in programs too. A fair amount for everyone

The services are already subsidised by the public purse.

Apologies but I don't know how best to answer this question as I guess a lot of the types of Customer may not use the facilities provided

No, it should be fair pricing for everyone.

I think that children should get a concessionary rate regardless, and maybe working parents as they have to pay out additional costs such as Child care provision which can prove expensive, I think Carers should also receive a discount.

Though I think benefits for all Redditch residents is also important

But only for sport type activity so as to keep them fit for work. E.G. swimming. Use of sport facilities.

So that people on lower incomes don't miss out on the benefits to health and mental well being of taking part in sports and leisure activities.

This is often funded by increasing the price for employed people which prices them out of using the service

to help them back to work - but not on longterm benefit/not wanting to work

Use of the gym etc is not always easy to afford when you are in employment therefore I would find it unfair if those on benefits were able to access the services for a cheaper price

should have one price for all, just because you work doesn't mean you have more money. A fair price for all should apply

Difficult as not in this circumstance but believe money should be channeled towards more necessary support - already lots of free things with parks/park runs/G25k etc

People feel bad enough not working and doing something helps them to become more positive about life.

Comments for 'Should concessionary fees apply to those receiving in/out of work benefits?'

Yes if you are in receipt of tax credits not just income support any similar

as this would help both the customer and the venue

General low income concessions would be appreciated for those of us working but not earning much.

I work hard and get no concessionary benefit for working, my budget is tight as a single mum but just scrape together enough to go to gym, there are free activities should they wish to use them

Everyone should be entitled to use the facilities and have the opportunity to save money not just those on benefits

Pro idea it applies to all pensioners not just those on pension credits.

Only disabled or over 60 and under 16 should qualify for concessionary rates

Or those receiving carers allowance who are otherwise not working as they aren't entitled to any financial support at all!

I work full time, have 2 children, a large mortgage to pay and full time nursery fees to pay, I have very little surplus money left at the end of each month (£78 to be exact) and I have to manage without concession rates because I'm not "entitled" to them, I'm pretty sure people on benefits have similar surplus money available if not more.

Though they do currently seem overly generous. Children with working parents not receiving benefits are disadvantaged by the amount their parents have to pay for each individual club.

I work really hard to earn money to spend time at attractions and also pay taxes to fund council & community.

I think it is important that ALL activities in the borough are accessible to all!

concessionary benefits give families on low income the opportunity to educate their children in water safety, and promote educational growth

It should apply to all

To assist everyone to lead a healthy lifestyle

Because it's too expensive otherwise

People can't afford it otherwise

I believe too many people see claiming benefits as the easy option and are reluctant to work hard for their money

Encourage more people to use the services.

Because everyone should be able to access affordable events, regardless of whether they work or not. Some families in employment still struggle to afford activities.

if my household goes out to work all hours ..i feel that I should to be able to have discount on prices etc..not just if your on benefits you get them..

It helps people out of work spend time positively - time spent positively means less time spent negatively and fitness activities invariably improve mental health.

i work hard so that i can afford to pay for whatever i need, why should i subsidise those that choose not to work

Equality of access

Those not receiving benefits of any kind are still keeping to a budget, we have to make provision for our families too and are constantly being targeted to pay more in every way. It sounds harsh but if money is tight then joining a gym or having nights at the theatre is not the answer. There are lots of free amenities that we all benefit from. By allowing concessionary fees you will put the process up for others to compensate.

Benefits leave very little else beyond providing for basic needs and keeping active and involved is important.

Already receive enough help. Should pay if want to use service.

The services should be accessible to all at a rate that is affordable by all

Accessibility and wanting to better yourself - if concessionary fees did not apply these people would simply lose the option to improve

To make exercising available to all at a reasonable cost.

Because a reduced fee is better than nothing even if it's only £1 it all helps with overhead costs, meaning those paying full prices are not paying over the top to cover the concessionary fee

Comments for 'Should concessionary fees apply to those receiving in/out of work benefits?'

It's not fair.
No because it makes it unfair on the people who do actually work full time and especially in jobs like looking after children, they don't get much money for their jobs even though they have a lot of responsibility.
To help develop healthy lifestyles
Everyone should be offered the same discounts regardless of financial status
Dependent on length of time recieved benefit.
Affordability dor those in need
They receive state funding for life; why djould raxpayers subsidise again? Also they have time to get out and use free facilities such as parks in the day. There are already schemes to support these groups. Why should those in work subsidise, because this is in reality what it would mean.
Don't know
I feel that this is unfair , as those receiving such benefits are also provided with substiuece in many other aspects
Encourage people to be active. It saves costs incurred elsewhere if you put barriers in the way of accessing leisure and arts provision. (Loaded question, btw)...
depends on the individual situation, there are many low income people now who don't get benefits but still can't afford to come
Obviously.
To motivate and encourage everyone to be more active and therefore healthier
This encourages people from all walks of life to get involved
Keeping fit / socialising / in a friendly atmosphere is key to a happier community.
They are on s loe income
Health costs will be reduced overall if people are active
I work why should I pay for someone else who is not making a contribution to the up keep
I work and can't afford many leisure activities for the whole family
I revive maternity pay and get no concession as its wrong sort of benefit. If others who get a lot more than me can't afford it then don't do it.
Should be standard affordable prices. Those on maternity leave receive nothing and can be extremely vulnerable
to encourage motivation
I currently get sickness benefits and the Abbey stadium gym is vital to my wellbeing and management of my condition but I have to fund it all myself. I have offpeak for cost but when I'm not so good I can't attend without the support of my carer who works in the daytime and we also cannot afford to pay his membership so I just don't go
If your able to work and choose not to, then I don't think you should get discounts.
We are a couple with 1 child and with only my partner working on min wage we struggle to afford to do many health/fun family activities due to the cost. But would use and do more if they were more affordable.
Because lots of people who are out of work suffer from depression and a lack of self worth. Being able to engage in physical activity helps body and mind and may help improve their health and employability.
It penalises those who work and may also be struggling.
May encourage them to become more active
I feel ii is important for people to access these facilities regardless of income for health and well being
I work full time and struggle with paying Gym fees, but I find the money to do it as I need it to unwind. It's no fair that I have to pay a higher fee as I am unable to go to the gym off peak due to work. If people receiving benefit want to use a gym they should pay for it out of there benefit money at the same rate as everyone else!
Just because I work in still struggle to pay
Everyone should be treated equally

Comments for 'Should concessionary fees apply to those receiving in/out of work benefits?'

You can budget for the monthly fee on benefits

We are a hard working, home owning family, but would benefit from reduced, family friendly prices.

Increases morale

We are all using the same facilities so should pay the same.

Availability for all

For certain activities.....yes.... Swimming or something beneficial. But palace theatre is more of a treat so no

For 'jobseekers, no, because they should not be encouraged by having life easy without a job. Life should be hard to make want to get a job.

On the other hand if someone has medical reasons to not work then yes they should as it would be unfair to penalise someone because they actually can't work.

These should also apply to carers and disabled children

so that everyone can benefit

Too complicated and costly to administer.

Health and leisure is vital to all residents

Feels fair that those on lower incomes receive encouragement to access activities etc especially those with chn

There are too many doors shut to individuals with disability both physical and invisible. Sometimes value for money doesn't happen.

E.g.: swimming lessons I had to pay 3x more for 1-1 because my child needed a calmer quieter setting. Paying for attractions and having to leave within a short time due to my child ASC and not coping. As working parents we are now looking into how to overcome this.

To encourage community participation and exercise

Benefits are sufficient and wage earners could be close to same income figure with no benefit available to them

Lower fees will make it more accessible to people on low incomes especially disabled

People should still have access to services regardless of their financial situation

Because the services need money to run so if people on benefits want to use them they should contribute

Raising expectations, empowering those who may otherwise be prevented from opportunity

I'm actually not sure, but if it would encourage parents to take their children swimming or be more active and improve their mental and physical health then it's got to be a good thing

Will help get more people out

Why should those who work and earn money have to pay more than those who don't?!

To encourage participation and not be exclusive on financial grounds.

depends on reason why not working

Only those claim out of work benefits should have concessionary fees

Any concessions will effectively increase the price for those who do not qualify

Especially for low income working families

Encouraging them to use the services they would struggle to afford.

People who cannot afford should not be excluded.

things such as gym memberships and going to see shows are a luxury. some people work hard to afford such luxuries.

Definitely because they are already disadvantaged and being involved in events and exercise etc will help their morale. I think that some exceptions should be made for people on a low income but not in receipt of benefits as well though as they seem to be struggling too, if not more.

N/A

People who are genuinely unemployed should not be socially excluded because of their inability to pay the full price.

Comments for 'Should concessionary fees apply to those receiving in/out of work benefits?'

They need to be included in the community and encouraged to improve their potential

Ill health need to keep fit well try to

all should pay the same rate, if you cannot afford it don't buy it.

Many families are on very low income and would probably use more of the facilities if they got discounted rates.

I think should keep to how this is now as I think the system would be abused

Only should be encouraged into work

With the current financial situation, everyone is having to cope with the increased cost of living that generally does not match any pay increment, so any concessionary allowance should be spread equally to lower the overall cost.

Any society needs to look after those who are less fortunate. Sport and the arts can help self esteem and in a social context build a network of people that may help them find employment and maybe rise the ranks through the improvement of self confidence.

As previous... I have been out of work, the incentive to get back to work or improve your lot is greater if you are suddenly losing out on what others have.

It should be relatively affordable for all to be able to access services.

Benefits should not be given to those not working with the exception of disabled. If prices are reasonable then it is not necessary.

How about people on low incomes who don't get benefits!?

But it's important that full payers don't end up paying more because of it. More access to children services for those not on benefits too. E.g. Parent courses

No discrimination; ask for evidence of entitlement if necessary.

Me and my son would love to do more activities but as i only work part time i can very rarely afford it

Because these people are disadvantaged already by not be able to go anywhere as they can afford only basics.

People have to work for there money then get penalised

So all Redditch residents can use

It might attract a range of users

Some families still struggle to afford things even if both parents work

Because everyone should be given a fair chance to do things in the community and not always being able to afford to puts a stop to this

Good to encourage people to take part in local activities

Although for a short period of time maybe

Fees and Charges are high for those in receipt of benefit and they would be the ones who would benefit most from concessions.

It depends - gym facilities & active facilities should be more affordable to the elderly & children to enable them to access easier.

although I've only been out of work once I found it very difficult at the time to pay full price for fees that you would normally take for granted.

why should people at work fund those out of work

Important that people remain healthy and active.

The council should be encouraging people to use their services not reserving them for those who can afford them

So long as they really qualify and don't look on it as a perk!!

Concessionary fees should apply to visitors of pensionable age too

No but a recommendation of a donation instead

To make activities accessible for all

I believe we should all bare the cost of our local services, whether we work or not. We all use them, so why shouldn't we all pay for them.

People on low income should receive discounted rates

Comments for 'Should concessionary fees apply to those receiving in/out of work benefits?'

Already receiving benefits. No justification for double concessions.

to encourage people to use

Those that pay in should benefit most

Unfair! I work 6 days a week, 8-6pm and I don't get freebies!!! I struggle as it is to get by and HAVE NEVER claimed!!! Why should we be giving our hard earned taxes to more people who don't work so they can enjoy swimming and going to gyms I can't even afford!! Makes me so upset! Prioritise the workers please.

Why can't services be subsidised for all locals. People on benefits may already be getting relief in council tax which helps to fund the facilities. Where other residents are paying for the facilities and the benefits.

If they genuinely could do with the help, maybe need to receive several benefits?

A lot of people gaining in and out of work benefits choose to be in that position.

this apply for elderly and disabled. everyone else should pay the same

To enable everyone to use the facilities

A small fee should be applied.

Increased usage of facilities by larger group of people

I feel that if the benefits are of a reason to do with physical and mental health and it I am serious then maybe yes but if it is a case someone has chosen not to work I feel that this is an unacceptable reason to be granted concessionary rates

I am on a very restricted budget

Kids still need to have fun and get out and if parents can't afford kids are stuck in house

Unemployed, and their children, still need to stay fit and healthy

Broadens life activities - encourages interaction with others. Good for mental health. Increases chances of getting back to work.

I work hard for my income and are now getting fed up of all the freebies going to non-workers

We can all experience unemployment

Its fair

As it can mean more people able to do somethings

All should share the cost

with checks on finance of individual/groups if necessary so to stop benefit cheats

only for people on benefits should. they get a discount of a certain percentage off fee

only if reasonable £10 for disabled membership for a year this should be a monthly fee

why should there be a difference in price

Should be free for disabled people to help them develop and help them

Because its a lot of money

A reduced rate at least

support should be given to those who need it most, not just because of age like free swimming for over 60's who could easily pay for that facility and children whose parents could easily afford it as well.

Education is priceless!

should be made fair for all

affordable for all

Benefits should be sufficient if fees are set affordably

Redditch facilities add to quality of life & should be accessible to all residents at reasonable cost

Comments for 'Should concessionary fees apply to those receiving in/out of work benefits?'

I have to work hard to be able to afford things for myself and children.

To make it more affordable for those on a lower income

Cheap already and a lot of services are free

If it encourages residents to use the facilities then that is a good thing in my opinion, but making it slightly cheaper for those who perhaps would not use the facilities otherwise. Keeping the facilities in use improves the community, continues to employ people and enrich the local people.

If you're on benefits, you need every penny you get. Concession army fees would help people to engage in more activities, thus enriching their lives.

Reddicard is available for discounts.

They have less disposable income but would still benefit from the services

Physical wellbeing is closely related to mental wellbeing. It gives people improved self esteem and confidence and will help them develop skills to apply in work contexts, give them confidence in themselves, their applications and interviews.

Not all. Jobseekers perhaps, retired perhaps.

Only for a certain time frame.

Depends what it is though

People that work full time with no benefits struggle just as much as benefits claimants. Also I think life on the dole is made far too comfortable. Prices should be same for all - reddicard should offer some discount but again same for all not more for benefits claimants

including elderly

It should be a luxury to attend gym, swimming etc. If working families can't afford it then they will go to places that don't charge e.g. parks etc. Don't believe people on benefits should get it cheaper than anyone else

Depends on the reason of being out of work. If there isn't a valid reason (disability/mental health) then the same costs should apply. Lots of people that work struggle too.

Especially when facilitate better health and well being

By charging fees the less well-off will feel disenfranchised with certain sections of the community becoming more polarized and disaffected.

available to everyone that receives any benefit

The price should be right for all. The individuals in work should not get a concession. Those out of work probably won't not do something just because of a pound saved here or there especially if embarrassed into admitting they are catered for by a concessionary scheme.

Perhaps more people would use a service if they could pay less.

As long as this does not make services excessively expensive for those paying taxes and not receiving benefits

Don't punish the poor further

Gives access to all

But not if it means the other fee paying customers are subsidising these concessionary fees

often these people have more disposable income then those of us who receive no help

To make it affordable for all

Affordable for everyone

If it helps the people get back into work for example using facilities at the abbey stadium

No discrimination. Apply means test/checks where necessary.

Unfair to exclude those on low income

Not everybody can afford them

Not sure. It might give them more incentive not to get a job.

Comments for 'Should concessionary fees apply to those receiving in/out of work benefits?'

To encourage everyone to use the facilities

Costs should be set the same for all.

I think people should be rewarded for choosing to work. Temporary Concessionary fees could be rewarded when a person begins a job after claiming job seekers. Concessionary fees should apply for those who's health and mental / social wellbeing would benefit for these services

Those on low income should have more access

Because money doesn't grow on trees ☹️

RBC should be campaigning to improve these benefits, not use Council Tax funds to subsidise certain user groups.

It would enable people to use facilities which otherwise they may not be able to afford.

I think we all deserve concessionary fees, the trouble with benefits is it ends up better not to work as workers pay for everything we should encourage work.

Health, wellbeing and fitness should be able to be accessed by everyone despite a set of circumstances that may not be directly their fault.

To encourage them to use the services / facilities on offer

Allowing them to engage with the Redditch community and to use what we have on offer instead of sourcing it else where due to it being cost effective else where.

Not sure

To help them socialise

The more money generated the better to safeguard our facilities

They are part of the local community

To encourage retired people to look after health, free swimming is a fantastic thing for the people of Redditch.

Do not know who is entitled to out of work benefits and so cannot say.

I'm on a low income - costs prevent me from accessing many services

I think provision should be accessible for all but also it shouldn't be those who are working and not entitled to benefits that end up paying more to cover this. A balance is needed so everyone feels they are able to access the facilities.

genuine reasons for most applications for benefit, if withdrawn then uptake of sports services could decrease resulting in impact upon health

People in need of benefits need to feel that they are able to continue to participate if we are not to create a 2 tier society

As a pensioner I enjoy my free swimming sessions, it helps me keep fit and hopefully out of needing the NHS.

If you are on minimum wage, unwaged, or not on benefits why shouldn't you receive the same concessions. We all pay the same tax, so should all pay the same.

they tend to get enough help.

There are many grant funded schemes that are available or could be created for these groups. You need to be commercially minded so you want those with disposable income that can support the service and will pay for the add ons like products from the museum or drinks/food from the cafe etc

Only for those with positive need for those benefits not dole dossiers.

I don't see why people who can't be bothered to work should receive concessionary rates? Disability is one thing but why should I have to pay more of my hard earned cash when someone playing the system get them and their kids in for free??

Health and wellness are key to good environment all infrastructure is important

subject to use and encouraging activity for those who are inactive - this should be measured

The unemployed require financial help

It depends on individual circumstances, and therefore that they should be means tested and not automatically applicable for all.