



SOMERSET & WESSEX EATING DISORDERS ASSOCIATION

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Fees Policy

Owner:	Sam Best - Chief Operating Officer				
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At SWEDA, it is our policy to keep our fees as affordable as possible. We receive external funding which covers some but not all of our services, therefore we need to charge fees for those services that are not covered. All our services are costed so we know what it costs us to deliver a particular service. We also recognise a fee can sometimes empower people and bring a sense of commitment to their treatment. However, we are aware that some people would be not be able to meet the full cost of a service and at SWEDA we pride ourselves on not turning anyone away because they cannot afford to pay. However, our challenge is to make sure that we're able to balance the books and keep running the service.

We currently charge for our counselling service, which ranges in cost from £10 to £35 per session (the full cost of running our counselling service is approximately £65 per session). Fees are discussed up front between the potential client and the Clinical Assessor to determine how much a client can afford to pay. We do not ask for evidence of this and some clients opt to pay more than the £35 as they can afford to do so. Occasionally, our clients have had such a good experience, they have made additional donations.

Fee waiving

When clients are not able to pay anything, then we rely on some of our funders to meet the cost so that we can waive their fee entirely. Application for a waiver will be discussed with the Clinical Assessor during the counselling assessment. Applications will then be discussed and agreed by the senior management team on a case by case basis and will be authorised for a fixed period, which will be reviewed at least annually.