



Folk.us
Noy Scott House
Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital
Barrack Road
Exeter EX2 5DW

Expenses and Costs for Users and Carers Working with Folk.us

This leaflet sets out the rates Folk.us pays for services users, patients and family members/carers who take part in our working parties and groups - and how to claim.

Background

Folk.us is a small, Department of Health funded, organisation with limited funds, and we will always depend a great deal on voluntary efforts by both professional and service user, patient or carer members of our network to support our work. Nevertheless, we feel it is important to make funds available to our service users, patients, carers and family members when helping us for the following reasons:

- Service user, patient and carer expertise is valuable and worth paying for when needed
- Professionals' time and expenses are normally paid by their employers, and it is unfair for service users and carers to be out of pocket for the contribution they make.
- The underlying principle is that people should always be offered payment for their expertise and expenses; we acknowledge that for various reasons not everyone always wants to claim.
- Folk.us wants to work with a wide range of service users, patients and carers, not just those who don't need their extra costs met. Working with Folk.us isn't going to make you rich - but it shouldn't make unrealistic financial demands.



Telephone: 01392 403049



Fax Folk.us: 01392 403042

Website: www.ex.ac.uk/folk.us

Email: folk.us@exeter.ac.uk



Folk.us
Noy Scott House
Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital
Barrack Road
Exeter EX2 5DW

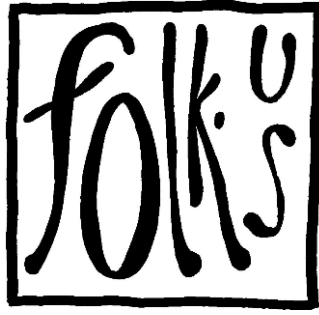
What costs and expenses can Folk.us meet?

Folk.us Network Meetings: Service users, patients, carers or family members who want to claim travel costs for coming along to individual meetings can do that. Please fill in the University's expenses claim form and post or give it to the Folk.us Co-ordinator or Assistant along with any relevant receipts, tickets etc. Folk.us has a small 'float' so that normal travel costs can be reimbursed on the day, again a claim form needs to be filled in. Service user organisations or groups who make arrangements for a number of members to travel together can also claim back these expenses. Folk.us pays the same rates as the University as Exeter for travel, this is the actual cost of any trains, taxis or buses fares and mileage costs at 40 pence per mile.

We can also help with other bigger expenses like child care where that is needed - but let us know in advance so that we can agree the details with you.

Working Group & Steering Group members: As well as travel can also pay for your time, commitment and work involved. This will be £25 per half day or £15 a session or at the 'Visiting Academic' rate of the University. Costs of phone calls and any postage can also be met.

Payments will usually be to Folk.us contacts as individuals, but can be made to employees of user groups or organisations where loss of paid time is involved. This would usually be paid at the Steering Group rates listed above, but in exceptional cases other rates may be agreed.



*Folk.us
Noy Scott House
Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital
Barrack Road
Exeter EX2 5DW*

Other costs and payments

We will reimburse costs of travel, subsistence and entrance fees for conferences or training events undertaken on behalf of Folk.us at the rates set by University of Exeter.

If running training workshops for other users or professionals through Folk.us we will aim to negotiate the 'going rate' from any outside organisation organising the training (normally £10 -£20 an hour) and we will ensure reimbursement of any expenses.

Research or interviewing work carried out on behalf of Folk.us will be paid at a negotiable rate of £5-£10 an hour depending on the type of work involved. Funding for research projects which user groups themselves organise and plan may be provided through a separate Research Application (details from Co-ordinator or Assistant).

The details of all of these payments will be arranged in advance with the individual involved through the Folk.us Co-ordinator.

Note that it will be the responsibility the user or carer concerned to be aware of and inform the relevant benefits body if there are any implications of these payments for their individual benefits or tax.

Folk.us management steering group will review arrangements for payment regularly, taking into account current guidance on user/carers payment from other sources, including the document by 'Involve' and the draft document prepared for users and carers in the Mental Health Services.

Updated 8th February 2005
By Folk.us Co-ordinator