



THE BENEFIT SYSTEM AND DISABLED YOUNG PEOPLE



NB: This leaflet applies to those making their first claims on or after 27 October 2008. People claiming before that date, should see leaflet Pb11

A brief introduction to the Social Security Benefits available to young people who are unable to work, and their carers. For benefits when working – see our leaflet Pb12A. The benefits that can be claimed can be divided into:

A FROM THE AGE OF SIXTEEN and **B** AT ANY TIME

A FROM THE AGE OF SIXTEEN

**A1 EMPLOYMENT AND SUPPORT ALLOWANCE (ESA)
CLAIM ON FORM ESA 1**

ESA is paid to anyone aged 16 and over who passes the 'Work Capability Assessment' (WCA) – the test of who is considered to have 'limited capability for work' and is therefore entitled to the benefit.

Initially the claim form has to be accompanied by a Med 3 from your GP; then the assessment is via a form called an ESA50.

ESA can be claimed while at special school / in some mainstream education.

See our leaflet Pb12A for the benefits if the young person wants to work.

A2 INCOME-RELATED ESA (ESA (IR)) CLAIM ON FORM ESA 1

If you have a low income and savings under £16,000, you can also get the means-tested or income-related ESA. This tops up other income, including the non means-tested ESA, especially if DLA (overleaf) is also being paid. Check whether this applies to you now or in the future.

Entitlement to ESA (IR) triggers entitlement to -

- * Free school meals
- * Free NHS Benefits (e.g. prescriptions, dental care, glasses, hospital fares)
- * Community Care Grants (payments for one-off needs)

ESA (IR) can be claimed while still at school, but the young person may also need to be getting Disability Living Allowance.

TO CLAIM: For both types of ESA contact the Under 18 Officer at your local Jobcentre Plus (if aged 16/17), otherwise call 0800 055 6688.

PARENTS – Once your child claims Employment and Support Allowance in their own right they are no longer your 'dependants' for benefit purposes and so you will not be able to claim for them on your benefits such as Child Tax Credit or Child Benefit - you must notify the Child Benefit Centre and Child Tax Credit Office.

B CLAIM AT ANY TIME

B1	DISABILITY LIVING ALLOWANCE	CLAIM FORM DLA (1)A
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Split into two components - CARE and MOBILITY – both can be claimed at the same time.

● CARE COMPONENT

The Care Component is paid at 3 rates - **HIGHER, MIDDLE and LOWER** so it covers a wide range of care needs.

The **higher** rate is for people who need 24 hour care. The **middle** rate is for those who need help either throughout the day or for long periods / more than once at night.

This Component is for people who need a high degree of looking after. This can be actually doing something practical for them or keeping an eye on them - or a combination of the two.

The **lower** rate is for those who only need help for a part of the day, for example for about an hour in total or those who cannot prepare a cooked main meal on their own.

If help is needed - for example getting dressed or undressed, using the toilet, washing, having a bath, taking medication or if the person is unsafe to be left alone - make a claim for the Care Component of the DLA.

● MOBILITY COMPONENT

The Mobility Component is paid at two rates – **HIGHER** (aged 3 and over) and **LOWER** (aged 5 and over).

The **LOWER RATE** is for the young person who is able to walk but who needs guidance or supervision when outside. S/he might be able to cope with walking in their own local environment, but need help when outside their familiar routes. Examples would be those with a visual impairment, behavioural problems, communication difficulties or having fits.

The **HIGHER RATE** is for anyone who has walking problems and can be considered “virtually unable to walk” – this takes into account the speed, distance, time taken and how they walk. It is **also** payable to someone who has both severe behavioural problems and who needs 24 hour care.

People in receipt of the higher rate are entitled to a blue badge, free car tax and can use the allowance to obtain a car via “Motability”.

APPEALS There is a right of appeal against either being refused the Care or Mobility Component completely or if only a lower rate is given.

B2 CARERS ALLOWANCE**CLAIM FORM DS 700**

This is for a carer who looks after someone on the Higher or Middle rate of the Care Component of the Disability Living Allowance (so DLA and Carers Allowance can be claimed at the same time). The carer has to be aged 16 or over. S/he can work while claiming, but there is an earnings limit, which may increase yearly **so get up to date advice on Carers Allowance (CA)**.

B3 INCOME RELATED HELP FOR CARERS

Carers on a low income and savings may get one or more of the following:

- * Income Support/Pension Credit/JSA (income-based)
- * Child Tax Credit
- * Rent Rebate (Housing Benefit - HB)
- * Council Tax Rebate (Council Tax Benefit - CTB)

Getting Carers Allowance triggers extra help which is called the 'Carers Premium' or 'Addition'. This is added to the above benefits when the Carer is eligible for Carers Allowance.

There will also be entitlement to the Carers Premium/Addition if the only reason Carers Allowance is not in payment is the Carer is either already on another "overlapping" benefit (e.g. Retirement Pension) or s/he is part of someone else's claim as a dependant (e.g. Incapacity Benefit).

To get the Carers Premium/Addition with your benefits contact your local Jobcentre Plus (for Income Support/JSA(IB)), Pension Service (for Pension Credit) or the Benefits Section of the Local Council (for HB/CTB).

Your local advice agency can help with this claim.

B4 OTHER HELP – Whatever your income or savings**(i) COUNCIL TAX DISABILITY REDUCTION**

If the young person's home has been adapted, or added to, because of their disability, the Council Tax payer may be entitled to a DISABILITY REDUCTION. This could mean a lower gross Council Tax bill.

(ii) COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNT

A discount can reduce the gross Council Tax by up to a half. Certain categories of Carers are entitled to a discount, as are households where there is a person who is "severely mentally impaired".

Apply for a disability reduction or a discount from your Council Tax Section.

See our leaflet **Pb35** for detail on the Council Tax help for carers / disabled people.

HOW TO CLAIM

Claim forms are available from:-

- * ADVICE AGENCIES (see list below)
- * JOBCENTRE PLUS - address and number in the telephone book.

PLEASE NOTE

For most benefits for people of working age (not DLA) the claim has to be via your Jobcentre Plus office and will mean an interview with a "Personal Adviser".

NEED HELP?

For further help and advice contact your nearest advice agency

Rugby Citizens Advice Bureau
[CAB]
1st Floor, Chestnut House
North Street
Rugby, CV21 2AQ

North Warwickshire CAB
The Parish Rooms
Welcome Street
Atherstone, CV9 1DU

Bedworth & District CAB
(Covers Nuneaton & Bedworth)
Old Market Tavern
25 Congreve Walk
Bedworth, CV12 8LX
(To book an appointment in
Nuneaton call 024 7635 1049)

Warwick District CAB
10 Hamilton Terrace
Leamington Spa, CV32 4LY
Tel: 01926 457900

Stratford-upon-Avon CAB
25 Meer Street
Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6QB

Switchboard number for ALL CABx: 0844 855 2322

For Disabled people.....

D.I.A.L.
(Nuneaton & Bedworth only)
New Ramsden Centre
School Walk
Attleborough
Nuneaton, CV11 4PJ
Tel: (024) 7634 9954

The Rowan Organisation
(Whole County)
Eliot Park Innovation Centre
Barling Way
Nuneaton
CV10 7RH
Tel: 0800 783 1755

The information in this factsheet is correct as of April 2010

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Produced by: Warwickshire Welfare Rights Advice Service
Funded by: Warwickshire County Council
Charity Registration No. 1113524
Company No. 5730678

