



# LEAVING YOUTH CUSTODY?



## BENEFITS – A *Brief Guide*

This leaflet tells you what extra money you might be able to claim if you are aged 16-18 and have just come out of youth custody. It is only a very brief guide - you should get more advice before making any claims.

It is difficult for most 16-17 year olds to claim benefits as you are still expected to be in education or training. It gets easier once you are 18.

### ARE YOU IN EDUCATION OR TRAINING?

If you live at home with parents or guardians, they should get **CHILD BENEFIT** and possibly **CHILD TAX CREDIT** for you. You cannot claim any benefit yourself.

If you live alone because you have no parents (or cannot live with them) you might be able to get **INCOME SUPPORT (IS)\***.

*TO CLAIM*, if 16/17, see the Under 18 Adviser at the local Jobcentre Plus, if aged 18 and over, RING 0800 602 0265.

Either way, you could also claim an **EMA** from your school or college.

### ARE YOU UNEMPLOYED AND LOOKING FOR WORK?

Once you are 18 you can claim **JOBSEEKERS ALLOWANCE (JSA)\***. If you are 16 or 17 you can only get JSA if:

- You are one of a couple and you have a child
- For up to 20 weeks after leaving school or college **but only if**
  - you are living away from home as part of a planned programme of resettlement or rehabilitation under the supervision of the Probation Service **or**
  - you have no parents
  - or**
  - you are living apart from your parents and they are unable or unwilling to support you.
- For up to 8 weeks after leaving custody or detention. You can only claim during this period if you would have been entitled during the 20 weeks after leaving school (see above).

If you cannot get JSA, you might be able to get Severe Hardship Payments instead.

*TO CLAIM JSA RING: 0845 602 0265.*

### **CAN'T WORK AS YOU ARE SICK OR DISABLED?**

You can claim **EMPLOYMENT AND SUPPORT ALLOWANCE (ESA)** if your doctor gives you a sick-note to say you are not fit for work. The Department for Work and Pensions will assess you to see if you pass their test for this benefit.

If you have a long-term illness or disability you might be able to claim a benefit called **DISABILITY LIVING ALLOWANCE (DLA)**.

*TO CLAIM ESA, RING: 0845 602 0265. TO CLAIM DLA, RING: 0800 882200.*

### **PREGNANT?**

You can claim **MATERNITY ALLOWANCE** if you are pregnant and your baby is due within 11 weeks or you have given birth within the last 39 weeks. **NOTE** this benefit is only paid if you have worked for at least 26 weeks in the 15 month period before your baby is due. If you have not worked, you can claim **INCOME SUPPORT** instead.

*TO CLAIM MATERNITY ALLOWANCE, RING: 0800 055 6688.*

### **ARE YOU A CARER?**

You can claim **CARERS ALLOWANCE** if you are looking after a disabled person, e.g. a parent or other relative. This can be 'topped up' by also claiming Income Support.

*TO CLAIM CARERS ALLOWANCE, RING: 0800 882200.*

### **ARE YOU WORKING AT LEAST 16 HOURS A WEEK?**

If you are working 16 or more hours a week you may be able to claim **WORKING TAX CREDIT** to top up your wages if:

- You (or your partner) are responsible for a child or
- You have a disability that puts you at a disadvantage in getting a job

*TO CLAIM WORKING TAX CREDIT, RING: 0845 300 3900*

## **DO YOU HAVE TO PAY RENT?**

If you have your own home and have to pay rent, you can claim HOUSING BENEFIT (HB)\* whether you are working or not. You can normally only get help with the cost of a room in shared accommodation.

TO CLAIM HOUSING BENEFIT, RING your local district/borough Council

**\* NOTE: You cannot get HB, IS or JSA if you were in a remand home, or a young offenders institution when you reached 16 and before that were in Local Authority care for at least 13 weeks since your 14<sup>th</sup> birthday. Contact your social worker as they must pay for your accommodation and support.**

## **NEED HELP WITH HEALTH COSTS?**

If you qualify for Income Support or income-based JSA or income-related Employment and Support Allowance (or you are in Local Authority care) you get the following free:

- ◆ Prescriptions
- ◆ Dental treatment (free up to 18)
- ◆ Sight tests and most of the cost of glasses
- ◆ Fares to attend hospital
- ◆ Healthy Start food vouchers / vitamins if you're pregnant or have a young child.

You can also get some help with the cost on the basis of low income or if you are pregnant or have had a baby in the last year.

## **NEED A GRANT OR ONE-OFF PAYMENT?**

If you need cash on release (because for example you do not have enough clothing or you need household items or furniture to set up a new home) you may be able to get a COMMUNITY CARE GRANT (CCG) from the Social Fund to meet this cost as long as you are on one of the right benefits.

TO CLAIM A CCG, RING: 0845 6088 649.

## **USEFUL ADDRESSES**

<b>Connexions</b>		<b>Tel No:</b>
Leamington One Stop, Marlborough House, Holly Walk	LEAMINGTON SPA, CV32 4XP	01926 468950
Nuneaton One Stop, 43-44 Abbey St	NUNEATON, CV11 5BT	024 7632 4620
Rugby One Stop, 20 Regent Place	RUGBY, CV21 2PN	01788 577154
Connexions Office, Topps House, 101-103 Park Road	BEDWORTH, CV12 8LB	024 7631 2846
Connexions Office, 19 Parkfield Road	COLESHILL, B46 3LD	01675 462245
Connexions Office, 4 Mansell Street	STRATFORD, CV37 6NR	01789 296362

<b>Councils</b>		<b>Tel No:</b>
North Warwickshire Borough Council, The Council house, South Street	ATHERSTONE, CV9 1BD	01827 715341
Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council, Town Hall, Coton Road	NUNEATON, CV11 5AA	024 7637 6376
Rugby Borough Council, Town Hall, Evreux Way	RUGBY, CV21 2LA	01788 533533
Stratford District Council, Elizabeth House, Church Street	STRATFORD UPON AVON, CV37 6HX	01789 267575
Warwick District Council, Riverside House, Milverton Hill	LEAMINGTON SPA, CV32 5HZ	01926 450000

<b>Jobcentre Plus</b>		<b>Tel No:</b>
Mill House, Mill Walk	NUNEATON, CV11 4DL	0845 604 3719 (switchboard)
Brandon House, Holly Walk	LEAMINGTON SPA,	
Kingsforth House, 44 Albert Street	RUGBY, CV21 2JD	
Martin Raff House, Alcester Road	STRATFORD, CV37 9DA	
St Stephen's House, Prospect Hill	REDDITCH	

### **CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU**

**Switchboard number for ALL CABx: 0844 855 2322**

Old Market Tavern, 25 Congreve Walk, **BEDWORTH** CV12 8LX (covers Nun & Bed)  
(To book an appointment in Nuneaton call 024 7635 1049)

The Parish Rooms, Welcome St, **ATHERSTONE**, CV9 1DU

1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Chestnut House 32 North St, **RUGBY** CV21 2AQ

10 Hamilton Terrace, **LEAMINGTON SPA** CV32 4LY

25 Meer St, **STRATFORD UPON AVON** CV37 6QB.

**The information in this factsheet is correct as of April 2010**

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