
Fact sheet 11 -

Your rights: Welfare benefits

If you are providing substantial care for someone, Hillingdon Carers' Advice Team will be able to help you to identify and apply for the most relevant benefit for your situation. The most common types of benefit that we help carers to apply for are:

Attendance Allowance:

- ✚ A tax free benefit for people aged 65 or over who are physically or mentally disabled or need help with personal care or supervision to remain safe.
- ✚ It is not means-tested, there are no national insurance contributions tests and it is often paid in addition to other income in most cases.
- ✚ The person you care for must have been in need of care for six months before the award can begin, but you can make the claim before the six months have passed.
- ✚ Attendance Allowance is paid at two rates; higher or lower, depending on the needs of the person you care for.

Disability Living Allowance (DLA):

- ✚ This benefit provides help towards the extra cost of bringing up a disabled child.
- ✚ It is paid on top of almost any other income you have, and can give you access to other kinds of help.
- ✚ DLA is divided into two parts: a mobility component and a care component.
- ✚ To qualify for DLA your child must have needed additional help for three months before the award can be paid.





Personal Independence Payment (PIP):

- ✚ This is a benefit for people with a physical or mental disability who need care and support to participate in everyday life or who find it difficult to get around. It replaces DLA for those aged 16 or over.
- ✚ PIP is tax free, it is not means-tested and you do not need to have paid national insurance contributions to be entitled to it.
- ✚ It is not affected by earnings or other income; it is almost always paid in full on top of other social security benefits or tax credits.
- ✚ PIP has two components: a daily living component and a mobility component.

Carers Allowance:

- ✚ Carers Allowance is a benefit for people who regularly spend at least 35 hours a week caring for another person.
- ✚ You do not have to be related to or live with the disabled person.
- ✚ If you work, you may still qualify depending on your earnings.
- ✚ Carers Allowance overlaps with some other social security benefits.
- ✚ You can get Carers Allowance, even if you have never worked.
- ✚ If you are entitled to Carers Allowance, a carer premium will be included in your applicable amount for means-tested benefits.
- ✚ Carers Allowance is not means-tested and does not depend on national insurance contributions; it is taxable and counts as income for tax credits.

For more information, or to book an appointment with our Advice team, please contact Hillingdon Carers on:

Telephone: 01895 811206

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Hillingdon Carers

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