

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

BENEFITS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH HEALTH PROBLEMS OR DISABILITIES



Benefits

This leaflet explains briefly the benefits available to young people with health problems or disabilities and where you can get information about benefits.

Disability Living Allowance

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) is a benefit for people who have a mental or physical illness or disability. It has two parts:-

1. Based on **care or supervision** needs
2. Based on **mobility** needs

Your son or daughter may get the **care** part if they need help dressing, washing or other personal care needs or if they need someone to keep an eye on them to make sure they are safe.

They may get the **mobility** part if they have difficulty walking or if they need someone with them when they go out.

If they get the care part of DLA at the middle or higher of the 3 possible rates, you may qualify for **carers allowance** as well.

Claim forms for DLA and carers allowance are available by calling Tel: **0800 882 200** (textphone **0800 243 355**).

Work, Study and Disability Living Allowance

Your son/daughter could work or study full-time and get Disability Living Allowance.

Incapacity Benefit and Income Support

Incapacity benefit is a benefit paid to people who are unable to work due to their disability or illness. Young people can claim incapacity benefit from the age of 16.

- Your GP needs to verify that your son/daughter is not capable of work
- Ask for any medical certificate to be backdated by 6 months
- If they are 16, ask for a medical certificate back to when they were 15½

Claims are made using form IB(Y) available from your son/daughter's local Job Centre Plus Office

Things to consider before your son/daughter claims incapacity benefit or income support at 16:

- If your son/daughter claims incapacity benefit or income support, you will no longer be able to claim child benefit, income support or tax credits for them
- If all that you are getting for them is child benefit, the money your son/daughter gets should be more than what you are giving up. If you are also getting income support or tax credits you maybe worse off if your son/daughter claims incapacity benefit, if this is the case get independent advice.
- Some families will find that it is better to wait until child benefit stops (when the young person leaves school or reaches 20) before the young person claims incapacity benefit

Studying and Incapacity Benefit

- Young people at special schools and special needs courses at college can get incapacity benefit
- Young people studying on a mainstream course more than 21 hours a week cannot usually get incapacity benefit – unless they can show that the whole course (or the hours above 21 per week) would not be suitable for a non-disabled student

Work and Incapacity Benefit

- Your son/daughter can do as much voluntary work as they like
- If your son/daughter is doing paid work, they can keep their incapacity benefit as long as they come under one of the following groups:-
- They can work as long as they like, if they earn less than £20 a week
- They can work for a year (52 weeks) and earn up to £86 a week if they work less than 16 hours a week. At the end of the year they must stop work. They can work again under this rule as long as they have a gap of 52 weeks between periods of work.
- If they have the support of an organisation like Work Solutions, or another organisation whose job it is to arrange work for people with disabilities, they can earn up to £86 a week and can do this work for as long as they like.
- They can do work as part of a hospital treatment programme under medical supervision. They can do this work for as long as they like and can earn up to £86pw.
- If they are exempt from the personal capability assessment eg due to a progressive disease like MS, Parkinson's, Muscular Dystrophy, Rheumatoid Arthritis, severe learning difficulties or a severe mental illness they can work for as long as they like and can earn up to £86pw.

Please note that earnings of up to £86pw do not affect incapacity benefit, but earnings do count as income for means-tested benefits like income support, income based jobseeker's allowance, housing benefit and council tax benefits.

Income Support

- Income support is a benefit that is payable either to top up incapacity benefit or on its own
- How much income support your son/daughter could get depends on their income and savings
- If they have over £16,000 in savings, they will not get income support

- Your son or daughter may be able to claim income support from their 16th birthday even if they are still in school or college
- Your son or daughter can work and still claim income support but their work usually has to be less than 16 hours per week. In addition any earnings above £20 per week will reduce their income support pound for pound

Young people should claim income support on form A1 at the same time as they claim the incapacity benefit.

Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

Education Maintenance Allowance is a payment for 16-20 year olds who continue in education beyond Year 11.

The amount of Educational Maintenance Allowance your son/daughter might get depends on the household's income. If your son/daughter lives independently, only their income will be assessed. If they live with you, the family income will be assessed.

The weekly amounts payable are:

- £30 if the household income is below £20,817
- £20 if the income is between, £20,817 and £25,521
- £10 if the income is between £25,521 and £30,810

If your son/daughter receives Educational Maintenance Allowance it will not affect any other benefits that you or they receive.

For more information contact the Education Maintenance Allowance Helpline on **080 810 16219** or the EMA website **www.dfes.gov.uk/financialhelp/ema**.

Learner Support Fund

Some 16 – 18 year olds are entitled to money to help pay for the additional costs of staying in education such as equipment, books, childcare costs, travel, examination fees or field trips. To access this help contact your school or college.

Who to contact for more information

Benefits are very complicated. You can get more detailed information about the benefits mentioned in this leaflet from.

Herts Direct: www.hertsdirect.org/benefits provides information on-line on benefits and also Factsheets that can be printed off.

- *Factsheet 7 – Benefits for Children with a Disability* and *leaflet 5 of the Ill and Disabled pack - Benefits for Young Disabled People in Education* has more detailed information on the benefits outlined above.
- **Children Schools and Families:** Children Schools and Families workers can give help with benefits. Contact your worker, or make a referral by calling **01438 471500** or **01923 471500**
- **Adult Care Services:** Adult Care Services workers can give help with benefits. Contact your worker, or make a referral by calling **01438 737400** or **01923 471400**
- **Citizens Advice Bureau:** To make an appointment at your Citizens Advice Bureau, please find the telephone number in your phone book. You can also find the numbers and addresses lists on **www.hertsdirect.org** and **www.adviceguide.org.uk**
- **Benefits Enquiry Line:** The Benefits Enquiry Line can send out leaflets and claim packs for disability living allowance and carer's allowance.

Opening times:

Monday – Friday 8.30am - 6.30pm

Saturday 9.00am - 1.00pm

Phone: **0800 882200**

Text phone: **0800 243355**

Fax: **01772 238953**

Email: **bel-customer-services@dwp.gsi.gov.uk**

Web page: **www.dwp.gov.uk**

