

BOWER GROVE PARENT SUPPORT UPDATES



BENEFITS & ALLOWANCES 0 years – Post 16 KEY LINKS AND INFORMATION

Since I put the Maidstone Directory together in 2009 (please see a copy on our website) many links have changed, please see below:

If you are a parent/carer of a child with special needs you may be entitled to claim allowances for your child; some are non means-tested.

MAIN BENEFIT FOR CHILDREN WITH A CONDITION OR DISABILITY

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) is the main benefit for children with a condition or disability and helps to meet the extra costs that you might have as a result of your child's disability. It is made up of two parts; a care component and a mobility component. (See page 2 for section on **Personal Independence Payment (PIP)** a benefit to replace DLA for those age 16 plus)

CLAIMING DISABILITY LIVING ALLOWANCE

When claiming it is very important to put as much information as you can about your child's needs. Any information provided by a professional involved with your child's care may also help.

HOW TO CLAIM

The Benefits Enquiry Line on: 0800 882 200 is no longer available but a recorded message will offer you a range of phone numbers. Key information and claim forms can also be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/disability-benefits-helpline>

You may also find the following links helpful:

FINANCIAL HELP OVERVIEW: <https://www.gov.uk/financial-help-disabled/overview>

BENEFITS CALCULATORS: An independent benefits calculator to find out what benefits you could get and how to claim can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators>

OTHER ORGANISATIONS offer a range of information and advice. **Contact a Family** is an excellent source of information and offer online information and a **HELPLINE: 0808 808 3555** Open 9.30am – 5pm Mon – Fri. Web:

You may be entitled to other benefits – See below and Click on Link:

<http://www.cafamily.org.uk/know-your-rights/benefits-and-tax-credits/other-benefits/>

DISABILITY LIVING ALLOWANCE

CARERS ALLOWANCE

TAX CREDITS

OTHER BENEFITS

PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE PAYMENT

SPECIFIC RULES: LEARNING DIFFICULTIES AND AUTISTIC SPECTRUM

DISORDERS: There are some specific rules which allow some children with learning difficulties or autistic spectrum conditions to qualify for the high rate mobility component. For further information you can download Contact a Family's free Parent Guide 'Disability Living Allowance - claiming the higher rate mobility component for children with learning disabilities and Autism Spectrum disorders':

<http://www.cafamily.org.uk/know-your-rights/benefits-and-tax-credits/disability-living-allowance/>

or phone their helpline 0808 808 3555

National Autistic Society help and advice: Helpline: 0808 800 4104.

<http://www.autism.org.uk/>

See further Rights and Benefits for all on page 3

See Post 16 Years Information over/page

POST 16 INFORMATION

'What to do when my child reaches 16?'

- If your child is already receiving Disability Living Allowance (DLA) they may still be able to claim but DLA will be replaced with a Personal Independence Payment from 16 years onwards. You will need to make a renewal claim. (**See information about PIP below**)
- **APPOINTEE:** You will then be contacted by the Jobcentre Plus office to ask if the young person can manage their own affairs. If not they will ask if you can be their Appointee. This is really what you have already been doing i.e. managing benefits the young person claims and after 16 other benefits like Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). See Link for becoming an Appointee:

<https://www.gov.uk/become-appointee-for-someone-claiming-benefits>

- For information about Employment and Support Allowance ESA (a benefit for people aged 16-64 whose health problems mean that they are unable to work) and how this might affect other benefit payments, there are a number of websites and free help lines such as **Contact a Family free helpline: 0808 808 3555** <http://www.cafamily.org.uk/> They provide a free guide '**Money when your child reaches 16 years of age**'.

Or follow the government disability benefits helpline:

<https://www.gov.uk/disability-benefits-helpline>

CHANGE TO DLA - PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE PAYMENT (PIP)

<https://www.gov.uk/pip>

From June 2013 the Government started to replace DLA for those aged 16 or over with a new benefit called the **Personal Independence Payment (PIP)**. After this date, a young person turning 16 will have to claim PIP instead of DLA. For all existing DLA claimants who are already aged 16 or over you will be re-assessed under PIP at some point between autumn 2012 and March 2016 or later.

Follow the link for a free guide: Personal Independence Payment and other benefits at 16 including information about PIP Activities and scoring system:

<http://www.cafamily.org.uk/know-your-rights/benefits-and-tax-credits/personal-independence-payment/>

Helpful Guides: National organisations for specific conditions produce their own guides on benefits or can provide help with filling in the form. These include the National Deaf Children's Society, Action for Blind People, Downs's Syndrome Association, National Autistic Society, Contact a Family, Mencap. A full list of organisations can be found in the National Organisations section on our website.

Help lines

Benefit Enquiry Line

0800 882200 (**This service is no longer running, but a range of numbers is offered**)

Contact a family

0808 808 3555

Carers UK- provide advice, information and support to the parents of all disabled children.

0808 808 7777

National Autistic Society

0808 800 4104

See further websites below:

Turn2Us

http://www.turn2us.org.uk/benefits_search.aspx

Disability Rights UK:

<http://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/>

Department for Work and Pensions:

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk>

Benefits and work:

<http://www.benefitsandwork.co.uk>

Money Tax and Benefits on line:

<https://www.gov.uk/>

Further information on Benefits, Rights and information for all can be found on the following page:

See further Local and National information on our Parent Support web page.

GOV.UK

This Link includes your rights, benefits, carers and the Equality Act
Follow the link: <https://www.gov.uk/browse/disabilities>

OTHER SOURCES OF SUPPORT YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO:

Please also see the Maidstone Resource Directory on our website for further help lines and sources of financial help you may be entitled to. (I put the Maidstone Directory together in 2009; some details have changed)

Please see a few mentioned below:

The Family fund

08449 744099.

<http://www.familyfund.org.uk/>

Family Fund, 4 Alpha Court, Monks Cross Drive, York YO32 9WN

The Family fund is the UK's largest provider of grants to low-income families raising disabled and seriously ill children and young people. They help ease the additional pressures families face. They can help with essential items such as washing machines, fridges and clothing but can also consider grants for sensory toys, computers and much needed family breaks together.

BLUE BADGE - Click on the Link

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/disability/apply-for-a-blue-badge>

Concessionary Fares: Kent County Council is now responsible for the Concessionary Travel Scheme for Kent and all enquiries should be directed to them: 0845 824 7802

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/disability/disabled-persons-bus-pass>

Caudwell Children

07814121486

www.caudwellchildren.com **Email:** bernice.scott@caudwellchildren.com

Caudwell Children provide family support services, equipment, treatment and therapies for disabled children and their families across the UK. They also run Enable Sport programme for talented disabled athletes and Destination Dreams holiday for children fighting life threatening conditions. The Family Support programme offers families with a disabled or seriously ill child (0-18) the support they need, the free service works around the needs of families, using skilled volunteers to help with practical necessities and support families to gain access to therapy, treatment, supports groups, equipment, help identify grants and sources of funding, information relating to medical conditions and signposting to specialist sources of advice

Josephine Cousins
Bower Grove Parent Support