

23. BENEFITS AND MONEY MATTERS

People who have an illness or disability, carers and/or people on a low income may be entitled to a range of benefits. The regulations on benefits are complex and subject to change so seek advice. Your local Citizens Advice Bureau can give confidential, free, independent, impartial advice on benefits, entitlements, money problems and debt counselling. If you are over 50, Age Concern can also advise, or contact your Local Pension Service if age 60 and over.



Arun Benefits Adviser

Based in the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) Town Hall, Bognor Regis. Able to give advice and provide a form filling service for: Disability Allowance, Attendance Allowance and other welfare benefits. Home visits for clients who are unable to get into the bureau for assistance. This could be for financial reasons, illness, disability, or caring commitments. They also offer diagnostic welfare benefit advice and help with appeals.

Contact the CAB on 01243 866233 and ask for the Arun Benefits Advisor

Attendance Allowance (AA)

This is a non-means tested, non taxable benefit, payable to people aged 65 and over who are severely disabled, either mentally or physically, and who have needed help with personal care for at least the last 6 months, or who are terminally ill because of a long term illness or disability. The '6 months' rule is waived if the person is terminally ill. It is paid for a fixed or indefinite period

Benefit advice

For those with hearing or speech difficulties Textphone: 08457 22 44 33

For forms and general Benefit advice for those aged 60 yrs and over:

- Local Information Points. For times and locations
- Tel: 01243 846450 or 01243 846398
- Pension Advisor and Home Advisor 01273 364754
- The Pension Centre Tel: 0845 6060265

For forms and general Benefit advice for those aged under 60 yrs:

Job Centre Plus Office, 5 Southgate, Chichester, PO19 2EH. Tel: 01243 224100

Gloucester House, High Street, Bognor Regis, PO21 1HH. Tel: 01243 846300

Carers Allowance Line Tel: 01253 856123

For Information and Home Visits for Arun and Chichester Tel: 01243 846398

Benefits Enquiry Line

Free confidential advice and information on Benefits entitlements for people with disabilities and their carers. Tel: 0845 6060 265. The line is open Mon-Fri (8.30am-6pm) and Sat (9am-1pm).

Carers Allowance (CA)

If you are caring for someone at least 35 hrs a week, are age 16 or over, are not earning more than a certain amount per week, and are not in full time education you may be entitled to this allowance. The person you are caring for must be receiving AA or, highest or middle rate care component of DLA.

Chichester Welfare Trust

Provides grants for people who are in need, sick, disabled or infirm and live in the city of Chichester. Tel: 01243 781849

Civil Service Benevolent Fund

This fund helps serving, retired and former Civil Servants (and staff of certain associated organisations) and their dependants. Assistance may include non-repayable grants. Also provides information, advice and support in finding suitable short, medium and long term residential or nursing care options.

Tel: 0800 056 2424. Website: www.csbf.org.uk

Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)

Citizens Advice Bureaux give confidential, free, independent, impartial advice on benefits, entitlements, money problems and debt counselling. Telephone or call in, there is no need to make an appointment, although you may be given an appointment if you need to return with further information.

See *Chapter 1, Advice and Information* for telephone numbers.

Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

This benefit is for people under 65 who have needed help with looking after themselves and/or help with getting around, there are two components, Care and Mobility, and both components have a three month qualifying period for at least the last 3 months, and help must be expected to last at least 6 months expect to need that help for at least the next 6 months.

Funeral Costs See *Chapter 26, Help with the Cost of a Funeral*

Help the Aged Care Fees Advice Service

If you or the person you care for are in need of residential or home care and have to pay for yourself, this service can offer impartial advice on meeting care needs for life, whilst as far as possible, protecting your savings and capital. Once the personal advisor fully understands your needs and wishes, a report can be prepared explaining the different ways in which you can fund your care. The service is free. Care fees advice is provided in partnership with NHFA Ltd.

Mon-Fri (9.00am-5pm) Freephone: 0500 767476.

Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Benefit

Assistance is available towards rent and/or council tax costs for people on a low income and with limited capital. For more information, get in touch with your local council, Jobcentre Plus, Jobcentre or social security office or The Local Pension Service.

Income Support

This is a means tested benefit is usually for people aged 16 and 59, who are unable to work due to disability or sickness, or a Lone Parents or someone looking after someone who is elderly, sick or disabled illness on a low income and with limited savings. Receipt of Income Support can automatically entitle people to additional benefits, including help with NHS costs.

Independent Living Fund

This Government funded trust helps severely disabled people live independently in the community. Discretionary grants are available to cover extra personal and domestic care costs incurred on top of Social Services provision, but are subject to financial and other assessment/criteria.

Tel: 0845 6018815 Textphone: 0845 6018816 Website: www.ilf.org.uk

Email (general enquiries): funds@ilf.org.uk

Inland Revenue (Tax Office)

The Inland Revenue has leaflets about tax allowances for people who are elderly, registered blind or have a disability. All Inland Revenue offices have a free home visiting scheme to help people with form filling if they cannot travel to a tax office themselves. For advice on eligibility for special tax allowances because of a disability. For the Chichester Office Tel: 0845 366 7856

Liaise

An independent voluntary organisation providing free and confidential benefits and debt advice to anyone living in the north Chichester District area. Can advise on entitlement and help with form filling. Home visiting service if required. Contact: Liaise, PCC Office, above Austen's, Market Square, Petworth (Every Tuesday 9am-12pm) Tel: 07931 300 705

Macmillan Benefits Helpline

Provides people with cancer and their families and carers' with advice and information on what benefits they are entitled to and how to access these, along with form-filling service. Also offers advice on other kinds of financial help with regard to, for example, prescription costs, fares to hospital, and housing costs. Tel Helpline: 0808 801 0304 Website: www.macmillan.org.uk

NHS Costs

If you or your partner is on income support or on a low income or with very little savings you may be eligible for financial help with various NHS costs. The leaflet *Help with Health Costs* is available from most Post Offices, Libraries, Health Centres and Citizens Advice Bureaux.

Specific leaflets are also available covering costs on NHS dental treatment, sight tests and glasses, hospital travel costs, NHS prescriptions, NHS wigs and fabric supports.

Pension Credit

Pension Credit guarantees everyone living in the UK aged 60 and over a minimum income, and may be able to award extra benefit to people over 65 who have made modest provision for retirement, eg through savings or occupational/private pension. There are additional payments for those disabled and living on their own, Carers, and those paying mortgages or Service Charges To see if you qualify, ring 0845 606 0265 or contact The Local Pension Service: 01243 846450, or go to the website www.thepensionerservice.gov.uk

Princess Royal trust for Carers Grants

As a member of Princess Royal Trust for Carers network of carers centres, we can make an application for funds to contribute towards:

- A break in the UK for the carer
- Equipment to make the carers life easier
- Educational bursaries to pay for a course
- Transport for carers
- Structured activities for young people with caring responsibilities

Grants are not means tested, but a financial information sheet does need to be completed, and Princess Royal Trust for Carers expect that carers who can afford to pay for these things themselves, will do so. As availability of funds depends on the fund raising that Princess Royal Trust for Carers does, not all grants are open for applications at all times. Whilst grant applications have to be made through the Carers Support Service, we do not have any input into the decision. For more information contact the Carers Support Service on 01243 537011.

SSAFA Forces Help See *Chapter 2, Someone to talk to* for contact numbers