

Lincolnshire Carers Service

Benefits Offer

The Lincolnshire Carers Service has a new feel to it...

- The service will continue to be provided through a collaboration between the LCC's Carer Wellbeing Hub (Serco) and Carers First.
- The Carer Wellbeing Hub will be the front door to the service.
- October to December 2022 will be a transition period.
- There is now a single telephone number
- Carers First will no longer be a direct referral route into the Lincolnshire Carers Service.
- Referral routes have changed

01522 782224
(8am-6pm)
Monday-Friday



Carers First Benefits Team



What are Carers entitled to?

Carers Allowance

- **The main benefit specifically for carers is Carers Allowance.**
- 35 hours a week of Care provision
- Care for someone who receives: Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance Care Component at either the High or Middle rate, Personal Independence Payment Daily Living Component at either rate, Armed Forces Independent Payment or Constant Attendance Allowance
- Not be in full-time education
- Not earn more than £132 net a week
- You can get a Carer Element on Universal Credit even if you earn more than £132 per week if you are caring for someone who receives a disability benefit

Carers Allowance

- **How much is it worth?**
- Carers Allowance is paid at £69.70 per week.
- **What happens if I'm receiving State Pension or another contributory benefit i.e. overlapping benefit?**
- **What will happen to any benefits claimed by the person I care for?**
- <https://www.gov.uk/carers-allowance/how-to-claim>

Carers Credit

- Even if you do not get Carers Allowance you may still be able to protect your entitlement to a State Pension.
- Caring for one or more disabled people for at least 20 hours a week.

Attendance Allowance

- You need to be over state pension age
- It looks at your ability to keep safe or look after your personal care which is affected by physical or mental illness or disability. Covers all aspects of daily life like washing, dressing, moving around etc and looks at night time needs.
- **How much is it worth?**
- 2 rates – Low Rate £61.85 or High Rate £92.40
- **How to apply? – 0800 731 0122** or download a form at www.gov.uk/attendance-allowance

Personal Independence Payment

What Is Personal Independence Payment (PIP)?

For someone of working age 16 to state pension age and looks at their ability to perform daily tasks and mobility. You need to score 8 points to get the standard rate and 12 points to the enhanced rate of daily living and/or mobility.

- **Who qualifies to PIP?**
- Not receive DLA unless you are being reassessed for transfer from DLA onto PIP
- Not be entitled to Armed Forces Independence Payments
- Need help with daily living activities and or mobility or both

Personal Independence Payment

How much is it worth? - two parts - a daily living component and a mobility component.

8 points to 11 points

- Standard Rate of Daily living - £61.85
- Standard Rate of Mobility - £24.45

12 points or more

- Enhanced Rate of Daily Living - £92.40
- Enhanced Rate of Mobility - £64.50

Disability Living Allowance

What is Disability Living Allowance?

This is a disability benefit for someone under the age of 16. It looks at how the child can perform tasks in the day and asks what support they need at night. There is also a mobility element.

How much is Disability Living Allowance

Care component

Lower Rate Care - £24.45 – Needs only help some of the day

Middle Rate Care - £61.85 – Needs help throughout the day or night

Higher Rate Care - £92.40 – Needs help throughout the day and night

Disability Living Allowance

Mobility component

Lower Rate Mobility - £24.45 – Guidance or supervision outdoors

Higher Rate Mobility - £64.50 – You may have other or severe walking difficulties

If you are on DLA and were born before 01 April 1948 you will remain on DLA. You can have your award reviewed if you are on a lower award. Born after that date you will transfer to PIP.

You can request a DLA form by contacting the DLA helpline on 0800 121 4600

Universal Credit

What is Universal Credit?

Universal Credit is a mean tested benefit for working age households on a low income. This is paid in one monthly payment and replaces legacy benefits like Income Support, Income Based Job Seekers Allowance, Tax Credits, Housing Benefit and Income Related Employment and Support Allowance.

UC is a single payment that is made up of different amounts depending on the claimant's circumstances. It is calculated monthly and can include support for the cost of housing, children and childcare, and the extra costs of bringing up a child with a disability.

Universal Credit

Who can claim Universal Credit?

- Single or joint (couple) claimants must satisfy 4 basic conditions
- Age – over 18 and below Pensionable age
- Part time Students and Full time Students who have a dependent child, claim DLA or PIP and have limited capability to work.
- Claimants must be in Great Britain
- Claimants must accept the 'claimant commitment'
- Have capital under £16000

Pension Credit

Pension Credit is a means tested benefit for a single person or couple who are both state pension age

- Weekly income less than £182.60 if you're single or £278.70 if you're a couple.
- Pension Credit Calculator - <https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator>
- You can claim additional premiums if you get underlying Carers Allowance or disability benefit if you live alone or both of you in a couple get disability benefits

Employment and Support Allowance

You can apply for Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) if you have a disability or health condition that affects how much you can work

To qualify you cannot be on Sick Payment and paid sufficient National Insurance Contributions for the last 2 to 3 years

- **New Style ESA** - Basic allowance of £61.05 if your under 25 £77.00 if over 25 for the first 13 weeks. After assessment:
- £77.00 if over 25 a week if you're in the work-related activity group
- Up to £117.60 a week if you're in the support group.

Council Tax Support and Discounts

Council Tax Support is a means tested benefit which can give you a discount on your Council Tax. This is assessed by your local council and depends on your income and capital

- Disabled band relief – You may be eligible for a band reductions if changes are made to your home for the benefit of the disabled person. This could be a new Kitchen, Bathroom or other room for the disabled person or extra space for a wheelchair.
- SMI (Severely Mentally impaired) – A person will be disregarded for Council Tax purposes if they are Severely Mentally Impaired and in receipt of a qualifying benefit like Attendance Allowance.

Fringe Benefits

- Free Eye Tests
- Free Prescriptions
- Free TV licence
- Free Travel for hospital appointments
- Free Dentistry
- Blue Badge

Useful Links

- Entitledto - <https://www.entitledto.co.uk/>
- Turn2us - <https://www.turn2us.org.uk/>
- <https://www.gov.uk/>

Carers First

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