

Carers Bucks is an independent charity supporting family carers in Buckinghamshire. We work with a range of agencies and organisations to provide the best possible service to carers. Our funders include Bucks County Council. We have offices in Aylesbury and High Wycombe and we work closely with our sister charity Carers Milton Keynes.

Contact Us

Our offices are open from 9am – 5pm Monday – Thursdays;
9am – 4.30pm Fridays

Aylesbury Office

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Aylesbury
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Carers Bucks supporting carers

Benefits for Carers

Information from Carers Bucks

Caring for someone can involve extra expense, particularly for things such as heating and laundry. There may also be the cost of paying for services, as well as your own loss of income, so you should claim all the money to which you are entitled. Contact Carers Bucks to arrange a benefits check for you.

Carer's Allowance

If the person you care for receives Disability Living Allowance (DLA) at the middle or high rate for care; or Attendance Allowance (AA) you may be entitled to Carer's Allowance. This is currently £53.90 per week. The cared for person can be a relative, friend or neighbour of any age and you do not have to be living with them to claim. To qualify for Carer's Allowance you must:

- * care for at least 35 hours per week
- * be aged over 16
- * not be in full time education (defined as 21 hours or more per week of supervised study)
- * not earn more than £100 per week

You can get Carer's Allowance even if you are receiving DLA or AA yourself, but if you receive certain other benefits including the State Pension, which are paid at a rate that is the same or more than Carer's Allowance, you may not receive payment of Carer's Allowance but may have what is called an 'underlying entitlement'.

Carers Bucks supporting carers

How to Claim:

- * Contact the Carer's Allowance Unit at Palatine House, Lancaster Road, Preston PR1 1HB; tel 0845 608 4321
- * Visit your local benefits office
- * Claim online at www.dwp.gov.uk/carersallowance
- * Ring the Benefit Enquiry Line on 0800 88 22 00.

Disability Living Allowance

DLA is a benefit for adults and children who find it difficult to care for themselves because they have a physical or mental disability.

You may get DLA if you:

- * Need help with personal care
- * Need someone to keep an eye on you to make sure that you are safe
- * Have problems walking or need someone with you when walking outdoors
- * Have a terminal illness.

There are two parts to the benefit:

- * A care component – which has three levels (low=£18.95; mid = £47.80; high = £71.40)
- * A mobility component – which has two levels (low = £18.95; high = £49.85).

Some people will be entitled to receive just one component; others may get both. The care component and mobility component are paid at different rates depending on how your disability affects you.

DLA is not means tested and can be claimed up until the 65th birthday. You can get DLA whether you work or not. Over 65s may be able to claim Attendance Allowance.

If the person you care for is terminally ill there are special rules to get the benefit quickly and easily.

If the person you care for is awarded the middle or highest rate of the care component of DLA you may qualify for Carer's Allowance.

Attendance Allowance

Attendance Allowance (AA) is a tax-free benefit for people aged 65 or over who need someone to help look after them because they are physically or mentally disabled. There are two rates of AA - the lower rate is currently £47.80 and the higher rate £71.40. The higher rate tends to be paid when the person needs attention both day and night.

If you receive AA you may get extra money for severe disability paid as part of:

- * Pension Credit
- * Housing Benefit
- * Council Tax Benefit

If someone claims Carer's Allowance for providing care to you and they are paid Carer's Allowance you may not be able to receive this extra amount.

How to Claim:

To claim Disability Living Allowance or Attendance Allowance contact the benefit enquiry line on 0800 88 22 00; visit your local benefits office or download the forms at www.direct.gov.uk

Help with Claiming Benefits

Age Concern Bucks

Free confidential information and advice to people over 60, their family and carers. Volunteers are able to help with completing benefit forms if required. Contact the Helpline on 01296 431127 (10am -12pm Monday – Friday).

Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Local Pension Service

Provides a home visiting service for benefits checks and help with filling in forms. Telephone 0800 917 9149.

Welfare Benefits Team

Advice on the full range of benefits including help with completing benefit forms. Telephone 01296 382309.