

CarersBucks



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 Buckinghamshire County Council.

Contact Us

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

Carers Bucks

Ardenham Court
Oxford Road
Aylesbury
HP19 8HT

Tel: 0300 777 2722

Email: mail@carersbucks.org

Web site: www.carersbucks.org
www.youngcarersbucks.org

You can also follow us on Facebook -
www.facebook.com/Carersbucks and on Twitter.

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Dedicated to supporting carers

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Benefits for Carers

Caring for someone often involves extra expense for things such as heating, laundry and equipment. 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.

Carer's Allowance

If the person you care for receives a Personal Independence Payment (PIP) or 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 £61.35 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 after tax.

You can get Carer's Allowance even if you are receiving DLA, PIP 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'.

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How to Claim:

- * Contact the Carer's Allowance Unit at Palatine House, Lancaster Road, Preston PR1 1HB; tel **0345 608 4321** or email cau.customer-services@dwp.gsi.gov.uk
- * Visit your local benefits office
- * Claim online at www.dwp.gov.uk/carersallowance

Disability Living Allowance/Personal Independence Payment

DLA is being phased out for adults aged 16 - 64 years and replaced with the Personal Independence Payment or PIP.

Like DLA, PIP is to help towards the extra costs arising from a health condition or disability. It is based on how a person's condition affects them, not the condition itself.

DLA remains (at the moment) for children up to the age of 16 and for those who were 65 or over on 8th April 2013 (the day PIP was introduced).

PIP has a mobility and care component like DLA but only 2 rates - standard and enhanced, which equate to the mid and high rates for DLA.

- * Care component - standard = £54.45; enhanced = £81.30
- * Mobility component - standard = £21.55; enhanced = £56.75.

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/the person you care for.

PIP is not means tested or taxed and it can be claimed whether you work or not. If the person you care for is terminally ill there are special rules to get PIP quickly and easily.

If the person you care for is awarded PIP you may qualify for Carer's Allowance.

How to claim:

By phone on **0800 917 2222** - you will need to give contact details, date of birth, NI number, bank or building society details, doctor or health worker's name, details of time spent abroad or in hospital.

Attendance Allowance

Attendance Allowance (AA) is a tax-free benefit for people aged 65 or over who need someone to look after them because they are physically disabled or have a mental illness. There are two rates of AA - the lower rate is currently £54.45 and the higher rate £81.30. The higher rate tends to be paid when the person needs attention both day and night.

You could get extra Pension Credit, Housing Benefit or Council Tax Reduction if you get Attendance Allowance - check with the helpline or office dealing with your benefit.

How to Claim:

To claim AA contact the helpline **0345 605 6055** visit your local benefits office or apply online at www.dwp.gov.uk/eservice

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

Local Sources of Help

Carers Bucks

We have a volunteer who can help complete forms, give advice over the telephone and make home visits in the Aylesbury area. **Contact 01296 392711 for information.**

Age Concern Bucks

Information and advice to people over 60, their family and carers. Volunteers are able to help with completing benefit forms in the home. **Contact the Helpline 01296 431127** (9.30am -12.30pm Monday - Friday).

Local Citizen's Advice Bureau

(Buckingham & Winslow CAB also offer a home visiting service for those unable to visit the bureau due to physical or mental issues or because they are a carer - **contact 01280 820761.**)

Beaconsfield Advisory Service

Advice and help to complete benefits forms. **Email beaconsfieldadvisory@fsmail.net or ring 01494 672987.**