



## ***CARERS FACT SHEET 6b***

### **Benefits and Allowances**

These are guidelines as the regulations on benefits are complex and subject to change.

#### **Carers Allowance**

This is the main benefit for carers. It is paid to someone who looks after another person for at least 35 hours per week. The person they care for must qualify for attendance allowance or the high/middle rate of the disability living allowance care component. The carer must not be earning over £79 per week after deductions for tax and national insurance, half of any pension contributions and any occupational or personal pension received.

Receipt of carers allowance can affect other benefits including those received by the cared-for person – check with the citizens advice bureau or local benefits office.

There are two main non-means tested benefits for people who are ill or have a disability: Attendance Allowance and Disability Living Allowance.

#### **Carers Premium**

The carers premium is an allowance which is used in the calculation of means tested benefits.

A carer premium is included in the benefit calculation if a carers allowance is paid (or if a carers allowance is not awarded because another benefit is paid at a higher rate).

**Attendance Allowance (AA)** is a tax free allowance which may be awarded to people over 65 who need assistance with personal care or require someone to keep an eye on them for safety. You generally need to have required this assistance for six months prior to making the application.

There are two rates of benefit payable – lower rate for day or night care and higher rate for day and night care. Higher rate is £58.80 per week and the lower rate is £39.95 per week. Attendance allowance is not affected by any savings and is not usually affected by any other income.

To obtain further information ring the Benefit Enquiry Line on 0800 220 674 or text phone 0800 243 787



## **Disability Living Allowance (DLA)**

DLA is a tax free benefit payable for people under 65 years. To qualify, help with daily living must have been needed for at least 3 months prior to the application and expect to be needed for a further 6 months.

There are two components to this benefit: mobility and care.

The mobility component (for people who have difficulty walking or getting about) is divided into two rates - higher rate: £41.05 a week and lower rate £15.55 a week. The higher rate can entitle you to a blue car badge and road tax exemption.

The care component is for those who require help with personal care and daily living.

There are three rates:

Highest £58.80 a week

Middle £39.95 a week

Lowest £15.55 a week

The rates are dependent on whether you need the care during the day, at night or both. They also depend on your level of need. You may qualify for either the mobility or the care components or for both. Both components are non-means tested.

For application forms for DLA and AA contact the Benefit Enquiry Line on 0800 882200

The helpline for these benefits is open from 7.30am to 6.30pm on 08457 123456.

## **Tax Credits**

There are two tax credits: the working tax credit and child tax credit.

**Child tax credit** is for people who look after a child under the age of 16 (or 19 if in education). Tax credit may be available for a disabled child.

**Working tax credit** is for people who are working and it is dependent on level of income and personal circumstances.

To claim tax credits: telephone 0845 300 3100.