

contact

*For families
with disabled children*

Contact Wandsworth

We are Contact, the charity for families with disabled children. We understand that life with a disabled child brings unique challenges, and we exist to help families feel valued, supported, confident and informed.

To make that happen, we work in three closely linked ways. We support families with the best possible guidance and information. We bring families together in local groups and online, to support each other by sharing experiences and advice. And we help families to campaign, volunteer, fundraise and shape local services to improve life for themselves and others.

Contact are based at the Early Years Centre, 1 Siward Road SW17 0LA.

Our office number is 020 8947 5260 and you can email the office at

Wandsworth.Office@contact.org.uk

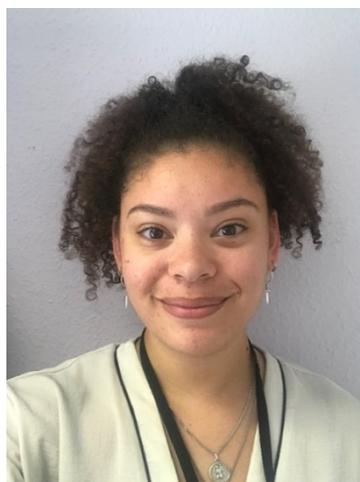
You can also find out what's on at Contact Wandsworth on our Facebook page

www.facebook.com/contactinwandsworth



Money Matters:

Disability Living Allowance and Universal Credit



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Aims

- Understand what DLA is, the components in which it is awarded, and the application process
- Understand how DLA can be integrated in with Universal Credit and other benefit systems
- Understand the appeals process if you feel the award is incorrect
- Understanding the basics of claiming Universal Credit

This presentation is based on the assumption of no previous knowledge of the subject.



Families with a disabled child

- Likely to incur greater costs
- More likely to be worse off
- More likely to be out of work or working less hours than they would like
- More likely to be missing out on benefits



Main Benefits

- Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- Personal Independence Payment (PIP)
- Carer's Allowance
- Tax Credits
- Income Support (JSA/ESA)
- Housing Benefit
- Universal Credit



Department
for Work &
Pensions



HM Revenue
& Customs



WHAT IS DISABILITY LIVING ALLOWANCE (DLA)?

- Disability living allowance is the main benefit for disabled children under 16.
- Designed to help you cover the extra costs that you might face because of your child's disability.
- Even if your child doesn't have a diagnosis yet, you can still claim DLA.
- The key issue is that they have extra needs that other children their age don't have.



Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

TRUE or FALSE? COMMON MYTHS ABOUT DLA

FALSE

- DLA is only paid if your child needs assistance with mobility
- You have to keep a record of how you spend the money
- You can only claim if your child has a firm diagnosis

TRUE

- DLA can lead to additional payments in child tax credit or universal credit
- DLA is not means tested
- You have to have been in the UK for 3 years



CARE COMPONENT WEEKLY RATES

Low	23.60
Middle	59.70
High	89.15

MOBILITY COMPONENT WEEKLY RATES

Low	23.60
High	62.25

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/benefit-and-pension-rates-2020-to-2021/benefit-and-pension-rates-2020-to-2021#disability-living-allowance>



Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

Care component

This part is designed for children that need extra help day to day including their personal care. It comes in three levels.

Lowest rate - help for some of the day or night

Middle rate - frequent help or constant supervision during the day, supervision at night or someone to help while they're on dialysis

Highest rate - help or supervision throughout both day and night, or they are terminally ill



They need encouragement, prompting or physical help to:

get into, get out of or turn in bed

How often each night?

1-10

How long each time?

5-60 minutes

get to and use the toilet, manage nappies or pads

1-2

5 minutes

have treatment

----- minutes

settle or re-settle

1-10

5-60 minutes

They need watching over because they:

are unaware of danger and may harm themselves or others

How often each night?

1-10

How long each time?

5-60 minutes

may wander about

1-10

5-60 minutes

have behavioural problems

1-10

5-60 minutes



38 Do they need encouragement, prompting, or physical help to go to or use the toilet during the day?

This means going to the toilet, managing their clothes, getting on and off the toilet, using the toilet, cleaning themselves and coping with continence care.

i Use page 7 of the **information booklet**.

Yes Tick the boxes that apply. **No** Go to question 39.

They need encouragement, prompting or physical help to:

- go to the toilet
- manage clothes
- get on and off the toilet
- wipe themselves
- wash and dry their hands
- manage a catheter, ostomy or stoma
- manage nappies or pads

If you want to tell us why you have ticked the boxes, how their needs vary or anything else you think we should know, use the box below.

For example, they have pain and become distressed.



Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

Mobility Component

Lower rate - If your child needs extra help in getting around and staying safe but isn't necessarily physically disabled.

Higher rate - The exertion required to walk would constitute a danger to their life or would be likely to lead to a serious deterioration in their health

Severe Mental Impairment Criteria (SMI)

- Severely mentally impaired and show extremely disruptive and dangerous behaviour



27 Please tick the boxes that best describe how far they can walk without severe discomfort and how long it takes them.

This means the total distance they can walk before they stop and can't go on because of severe discomfort. This may include short stops to catch their breath or ease pain.

We understand this can be difficult to work out.

It may help to do the following things when you are out walking with the child:

- count the steps you take to see how far they have walked. If they walk 100 of your steps, they have walked about 90 metres (100 yards)
- check the time when you start and stop to see how long it takes



Use page 5 of the **information booklet**.

They can walk:

- over 200 metres (218 yards)
- 51 to 200 metres (56 to 218 yards)
- 50 metres (55 yards) or less
- a few steps

It takes them:

- more than 5 minutes
- 3 to 4 minutes
- 1 to 2 minutes
- less than a minute

28 Please tick the box that best describes their walking speed.

Normal

This means they can easily keep up with friends.

Slow

This means they can only keep up with friends with a lot of effort.

Very Slow

This means they can't keep up with friends.



32 Do they need guidance or supervision most of the time when they walk outdoors?

i Use page 6 of the **information booklet**.

Yes Tick the boxes that apply.

No Go to question 33.

Can they:

- find their way around places they know?
- ask for and follow directions?
- walk safely next to a busy road?
- cross a road safely?
- understand common dangers outdoors?

Yes

No

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do they regularly:

- become anxious, confused or disorientated?
- display unpredictable behaviour?
- need physical restraint?

Yes

No

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

How to Claim

- Call the DWP or find the form online
- Takes 5-7 working days to arrive and you have 6 weeks to complete it and return the application
- Find local services that can support you!



Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

What to do if you feel your award is wrong?

- Call the DWP and request a statement of reasons
- Ask for more evidence from health professionals if you can
- Mandatory reconsideration letter
- Ask for support
- Apply again!



Example letter asking for a mandatory reconsideration

[Your address]

[Date]

[Address on the letter the DWP sent you about your child's claim]

Dear Sir/Madam

[Your child's name]
[Date of birth]

Request for a Mandatory Reconsideration

I am writing to ask you to reconsider your decision dated [Insert the date on the letter the DWP sent you about the DLA decision] about [insert name of your child]'s entitlement to DLA. I believe s/he should have got an award of [the rate you think they should have received].

..... [insert name of child] has [insert names of any diagnoses or a short explanation of the main difficulties s/he has day-to-day].

I believe the decision did not properly take into account how much extra help s/he needs, compared to another child of his/her age, because of his/her condition.

Please also send me copies of all the evidence used to make the decision.

* S/he needs more help than another child their age with [insert details of the things s/he needs extra help with. See below for guidance].

* I enclose a letter from [insert name] as further evidence of [insert name of child]'s problems with [whatever the evidence helps to show].

Yours faithfully,

[Insert your name]

How to ask the DWP to look at their decision again

* Delete as appropriate



Top Tips for DLA

- It's okay to write outside of the lines!
- Get their education provision or a close medical professional to do personal statement. Avoid using family members.
- Remember that therapy is all the extra work you do at home as well as professional therapy. This includes the verbal prompting, repeating instructions, modifying the way you talk to help them understand.
- Try to avoid words and phrases like 'refuses to' and 'won't do it'. Instead use phrases like 'has significant difficulty' or 'due to sensory disorder struggles with...'
- Always get someone to help you complete the form



Carers Allowance

- Carer must be aged 16
- Must care for 35 hours a week or more
- Child must be on either DLA care component at middle or highest rate or either rate of daily living component of PIP
- If working, you must earn no more than £123 weekly after deductions
- Must not be in 'full time education'
- Do not necessarily need to be the child's parent
- CA is taxable and treated as income for means tested benefits but still usually worthwhile claiming as better off overall
- £67.25 per week



Universal Credit

- New means tested benefit
- Single monthly payment (in arrears) includes money to cover rent charges which is paid directly to client
- Claimed and managed online and digitally (must have an e-mail to apply)
- Must have capital of or below £16,000 and less than £6000 in savings
- Paid both in and out of work
- Administered by DWP



How to claim UC

Need to have an email address

Set up on-line account at GOV.UK. If couple must link on-line accounts.

Make on-line claim for UC (smart phone compatible)

Verify identity on-line using special ID verification service

Interview at Job Centre (must call them within 7 days!)

DWP will text or email to alert you of any 'to dos'

Completed 'to-dos' recorded in on-line UC Journal

No letters – instead all UC correspondence on-line



What does UC replace?

Income support, income based job seekers allowance, income related ESA, housing benefit, child tax credit, working tax credit.

Under Legacy Benefits

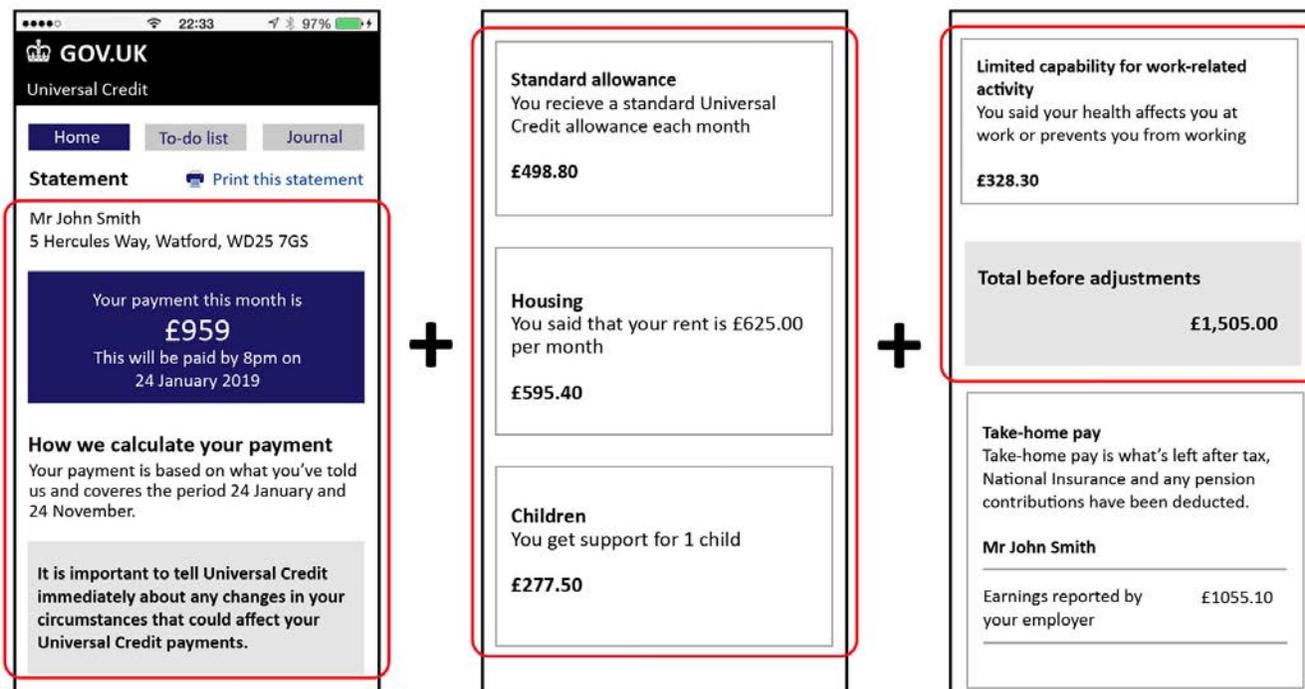
Carers Allowance
Child Benefit
Council tax reduction
Income Support *for self*
Child Tax Credit *for children*
Housing Benefit *for rent*

Under Universal Credit

Carers Allowance
Child Benefit
Council tax reduction
Universal Credit *for self, children and rent costs*



Universal Credit



When can you be asked to claim UC ?

- You have a change of circumstances that means you try to claim one of the benefits being replaced; or
- You choose to claim UC
- ***Exceptions**
- Families that live in specified accommodation (e.g. hostel, refuge, temporary accommodation) will continue to get housing benefit towards rent costs rather than UC



Elements of UC

Standard allowance

Child amounts- higher for eldest

Child disability additions- 2 rates

Adult disability additions

Carer addition

Childcare costs

Housing costs- rent and mortgage interest



Child Disability additions

	17/18 Existing benefits	17/18 Universal Credit	Weekly change	Annual change
Higher disability addition (<i>i.e. on high rate DLA care or PIP daily living enhanced rate or severe visual impairment</i>)	£85.68	£85.68	nil	nil
Standard disability addition (on any other rate of DLA or PIP)	£60.90	£29.05	- £31.85	- £1656



Concerns

Lower amount for most disabled children

Disabled parents will either get a carer element or a disability element but not both

No payments for looked after children in residential accommodation

Where both members of a couple look after same severely disabled child, only one partner will be automatically exempt from having to look for work (other partner relies on DWP discretion)

Delays in payment

Expected to look for work while waiting DLA decision

Positives

You can get an extra carer payment even if your earnings are too high to get Carer's Allowance

Don't need to work 16 hrs to get help with childcare, any number of hours will do.

85% of childcare costs met rather than 70%

Those eligible for CA are exempt from ALL conditionality - including work focused interviews



What we looked at today

- ✓ Understand what DLA is, the components in which it is awarded, and the application process
- ✓ Understand the appeals process if you feel the award is incorrect
- ✓ Understand how DLA can be integrated in with Universal Credit and other benefit systems
- ✓ Understanding the basics of claiming Universal Credit



Further help

Contact Helpline

0808 808 3555

Open 9.30am-5pm, Monday-Friday and is free from UK landlines and UK mobiles.

We have access to a translation service and parents can book a call back for a benefit check from our welfare right advisers.

All our information guides are available online

<https://contact.org.uk/advice-and-support/benefits-financial-help/>



Further help

Contact – Guide to completing DLA

<https://contact.org.uk/advice-and-support/benefits-financial-help/benefits-and-tax-credits/tips-on-completing-the-dla-form/>

Sky Badger – A step-by-step DLA guide

<https://skybadger.co.uk/2018/08/20/dla-form-a-step-by-step-guide/>

Cerebra – DLA Guide

<https://www.readingmencap.org.uk/media/1155/cerebradla-guide-web.pdf>

Turn2Us Benefits Calculator

<https://benefits-calculator.turn2us.org.uk/AboutYou>





Help us to reach more families

At Contact we would like to reach more families and provide them with the support and advice they need, and you can help us to achieve this!

Take on a challenge: from running to walking, cycling to swimming, we have places in a range of fantastic events

Get together with friends and family: hold a coffee morning, cake sale, or take part in one of our fundraising events

Talk about Contact: If you are unable to support us yourself, encourage someone you know to get involved, from your friends and family to local school or work, anyone can help us to reach more families!

To find out more information please visit www.contact.org.uk/getinvolved

