

### Overview of Carer Benefits

Carers Allowance | Universal Credit | Pension Guarantee Credit | Legacy Benefits | Other benefits | Council Tax Reduction

### Benefits the cared for must be receiving

<u>Cared for</u> must be 'severely disabled' in order for <u>carer</u> to claim carer benefits or carer additions to benefits. This is defined by the benefits system as a person in receipt of:

- Personal Independence Payment (PIP) daily living component standard or enhanced rate or;
- Disability Living Allowance (DLA) middle or higher rate care component or;
- Attendance Allowance (AA) lower or high rate or;
- some less common benefits e.g : Constant Attendance Allowance for industrial or war disablement.

(Note: **Carer** can claim these benefits too. For full entitlement conditions for PIP, DLA, AA, see relevant websites).





### **Carers Allowance**

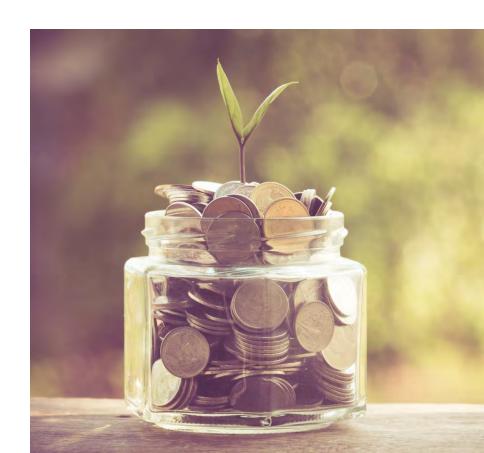


### The first carer benefit to consider.

Amount: £81.90 per week (2024-2025 rate). Flat amount - all or nothing paid.

### To claim it, the carer must be:

- caring for a severely disabled person (see above) at least 35 hours per week.
- Aged 16+ (no upper age limit).
- Earning less than £151 per week net (2024-2025 rate).
- Not in full time education (21 hrs or more per week).
- Not subject to immigration control AND pass <u>UK</u> residence and presence and 'past presence' test
- Partner's earnings, savings, occ. pensions don't affect CA, but it normally <u>stops once State Pension received</u>



### **Universal Credit**

# Universal Credit – means-tested benefit for Working-age people with <u>under £16,000</u> <u>savings / capital</u>

- Carers (and others) can claim UC if not working or working but low income. Can claim it alongside Carers Allowance.
- Includes <u>Housing Costs</u> for rent.
- If caring <u>35 hours or more per</u> week for severely disabled person, will get <u>carer element</u>: £198.31 per month. Do NOT need to have claimed Carers Allowance to get this just tell UC you are a carer.
- UC, unlike <u>Carers Allowance</u>, does not stop when earnings reach £151 per week, but *is* affected by other income, including: occ. pensions, partner's income.





### **Pension Credit Guarantee**



## Pension Credit: The main means-tested benefit for PENSION AGE single people and couples

- Tops up pensioner's income to: £218.15 per week: single/£332.95 per week if couple, plus potentially:-
- <u>Severe disability addition</u> (SDA) £81.50 p/wk per person if living alone and receiving AA, PIP, DLA or with another person claiming AA, PIP, DLA.
- <u>Carer addition</u> of £45.60 per week (per person who qualifies) if Carers Allowance claimed (usually underlying entitlement)
- Savings over £10,000 affect it.
- Couples: normally <u>both</u> partners must be over pensions age, otherwise must claim Universal Credit. Some exceptions to this, e.g. if one partner receiving HB since 2013.



# Severe disability premium / addition

# Carers Support West Sussex for family and friend carers

### Beware – danger!

- CARED FOR if receiving <u>Severe Disability Premium</u> (also called <u>Severe Disability Addition</u>) could lose this if <u>Carers Allowance</u> claimed.
- CARED for person sometimes receives Pension Credit or an older (legacy) benefit such as Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA-IR) or Income Support which includes a <u>severe</u> <u>disability premium</u> (SDP) of <u>up to £81.50 per week</u> if the claimant lives alone or with another person claiming PIP/DLA/AA.
- They will lose the SDP if Carers Allowance or UC carer element is received by their carer, so don't apply for Carers Allowance or UC carer element until you've checked.
- <u>But</u> if Carers Allowance is not actually paid to the carer (underlying entitlement only cases) then SDP won't be lost. This often happens with pensioners due to overlapping benefit rules.



### **Legacy Benefits**

## These are older benefits still in payment to many people: A new claim for them is generally not possible:

- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA-IR) - often received by people who've been unable to work for many years.
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance rarely seen now.
- Income Support (IS).
- Working & Child Tax Credits (WTC/CTC).
- Housing Benefit (HB). Note: pensioners can still claim it if renting, plus some working age people if in temp. or special housing with disability support.





### **Contribution-based benefits**

- New-style Jobseekers Allowance (contribution-based JSA) looking for work and have paid plenty of N.I. in last 2-3 tax years and are under pension-age. Employed only. Paid for 6 months. Can work under 16 hrs while claiming. £90.50 p/wk if over 25.
- New-style Employment & Support Allowance (contribution-based ESA): off sick from work, under pension age and have paid enough N.I. in last 2-3 tax years and don't get Statutory Sick Pay (SSP), or your SSP has run out after 6 months Self-employed or employed. Paid for 12 months (longer if in support group). Can work under 16 hours while claiming. £90.50 p/wk if over 25.
- JSA/ESA are not means-tested, except that <u>occupational</u> <u>pensions</u> can affect them. Partner's income and savings have no effect. Can claim <u>Universal Credit</u> at same time. Note: <u>These two cannot be paid at same time as Carers Allowance</u>.





### **Council Tax Reduction**

**Council Tax Reduction -** also called <u>Council Tax Support</u>. (Used to be called Council Tax Benefit)

- Anyone claiming benefit or on a low income should consider claiming this.
- It is <u>not the same</u> as the single adult discount of 25% for Council Tax which any person living alone will get, regardless of income.
- It is means tested. Must have under £16,000 savings if working age.
- When other benefits are claimed e.g. Universal credit,
  DWP will often prompt you to claim it.

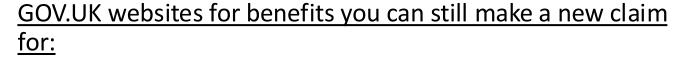
### **Other CT discounts**

• Also consider <u>severe mental impairment</u> (SMI) rebate, <u>student exemption</u> and <u>carers exemption</u> to Council Tax if adult carer caring for and living with disabled parent.





### Useful benefits websites



https://www.gov.uk/disability-living-allowance-children

https://www.gov.uk/pip

https://www.gov.uk/attendance-allowance

https://www.gov.uk/carers-allowance

https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit

https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-style-jobseekers-

allowance

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-style-employment-and-

support-allowance

https://www.gov.uk/apply-council-tax-reduction

https://www.gov.uk/housing-benefit



