



Fact Sheet MM02 April 2013

Maximising your income

We want to make sure people living in Barnet are receiving all the benefits that they are entitled to. We think you may find the following information and organisations particularly useful.



You can ask for a claim form over the telephone by contacting the [Carer's Allowance Unit](#) on 0845 608 4321 or your local Jobcentre Plus office.

Council Tax and Housing Benefit

Attendance Allowance

If you are over 65 years old and need supervision or help with personal care because of an illness or disability, then you may be entitled to claim Attendance Allowance. You can get Attendance Allowance even if you live alone, if no one is giving you help, or even if you would not accept any help.

The amount you get depends on how much your disability affects you.

There are two rates of Attendance Allowance.

Attendance Allowance	Weekly rate (tax year 2013-2014)
Higher rate	£79.15
Lower rate	£53.00

To find out more or to make a claim contact the [Disability Benefits Helpline](#) on 0845 712 3456 or claim online through the DirectGov website.

Carers Allowance

If you are over 16 and spend at least 35 hours a week caring for someone who is getting Attendance Allowance or either the middle or higher rate care component of Disability Living Allowance, then you may be eligible to claim Carer's Allowance. You do not have to be related to, or live with, the person that you care for.

If you are on a low income, whether you're working or not, and need financial help to pay your rent or Council Tax bill, you may be able to get Housing Benefit or Council Tax benefit.



To get Council Tax or Housing benefit your income and capital (savings and investments) need to be below a certain level. How much benefit you receive depends on your particular situation and the level of any savings you have.

To find out if you are eligible for housing benefit or council tax benefit, contact the housing benefit line at Barnet 020 8359 2111.

Disability Living Allowance

If you need help with personal care or need help getting around because of your physical or mental disability, or both, then you may be able to claim Disability Living Allowance. You can get Disability Living Allowance whether or not you work.

It is made up of a care components and mobility components. The amount you receive depends upon how much care you need and how difficult it is for you to get around.

To find out more or to make a claim contact the [Disability Benefits Helpline](#) on 0845 712 3456 or claim online through the Gov.UK website.

Employment and Support Allowance

Employment and Support Allowance provides financial help to people who are unable to work because of illness or disability.

Employment and Support Allowance offers personalised support and financial help, so that you can do appropriate work, if you are able to.

It gives you access to a specially trained personal adviser and a wide range of services including employment, training and condition management support to help you manage and cope with your illness or disability at work.

Employment and Support Allowance involves a medical assessment called the Work Capability Assessment. This assesses what you can do, rather than what you cannot, and identifies the health-related support you might need. The amount you receive depends on your circumstances. It also depends how much your disability impacts your ability to do any work.



You can claim Employment and Support Allowance by telephone [0800 055 6688](tel:0800 055 6688), textphone [0800 023 4888](tel:0800 023 4888) or by downloading a claim form from the Gov.UK website.

Winter Fuel Payment

You are entitled to winter fuel payment if you are aged 60 or over. This is an annual one-off payment towards the cost of your heating bills. You may receive up to £300 depending on your age.

You should receive this payment automatically without making a claim if you are getting a state retirement pension or other Social Security benefit.

For more information call the [Winter Fuel Payment Helpline on 0845 915 1515](tel:0845 915 1515) (or [0845 601 5613](tel:0845 601 5613) for textphone users).



Working Tax Credit

Some low-paid and disabled workers may be able to claim tax credits. If you are aged 16 or over and work more than 16 hours per week you may qualify.

Working Tax Credit is based on the hours you work and get paid for, or expect to be paid for. It does not matter if you are employed or self-employed, but unpaid work does not count as work when claiming tax credits.

For more information or to make a claim contact the Tax Credit Helpline on [0345 300 3900](tel:0345 300 3900) or make a claim online through the Gov.UK website.



Gov.uk

For more information on the benefits listed in this fact sheet or to make a claim online or download an application for Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance or Working Tax Credit.

Website:



If you need this factsheet in a different format, please contact the Communications Officer for Adult and Communities on:

Tel: [020 8359 7150](tel:020 8359 7150)

Email : adultsocialservices@barnet.gov.uk