

Benefits for carers

Last updated August 2017

The benefits system is complex and subject to change. Here is some basic information. You may be able to apply for one or more of the following, depending on your circumstances.

- **Disability Living Allowance (DLA)** can be claimed for children under 16 who are disabled and have care and/or mobility needs.
- **Personal Independence Payment (PIP)** can be claimed if you are aged between 16 and 64 and you have mobility problems and/or personal care needs. Income and capital are ignored.
- **Attendance Allowance (AA)** is for people aged 65 or over who have personal care needs. Income and savings are ignored.
- **Carers Allowance** is a benefit for carers aged 16 or over who care for 35 hours a week. The person they care for must receive the middle or higher rate care component of DLA, the standard or enhanced rate of the daily living component of PIP, or any rate of AA.
- **Income Support** provides a top-up for carers on a low income and capital of less than £16,000. If you are a carer entitled to Carers Allowance (even if you do not receive it because you are receiving another benefit) you get an extra amount when your Income Support is worked out.
- **Pension Credit** provides a top-up for older people on a low income. If you are an older carer entitled to Carers Allowance (even if you do not receive it because you are receiving another benefit) you will get an extra amount when your Pensions Credit is worked out.
- **Council Tax Reduction** is available from City of York Council to those on a low income.
- **Council Tax Discount Scheme** can reduce your council tax where less than two adults are resident in the dwelling. Certain carers and disabled people are disregarded when assessing how many people live in the dwelling.

- **Council Tax Disability Reduction Scheme** can reduce your Council Tax where a resident in your dwelling is substantially and permanently disabled.
- **Discretionary Housing Payments** can meet a shortfall between your actual rent and restricted housing benefit or Universal Credit housing costs for rent.
- **Housing Benefit** can help towards your rent if you live in supported accommodation, are on a low income and have capital below £16,000.
- **Working Tax Credit** provides help for people in full-time work. This means working 16 or 24 or more hours per week, depending on your circumstances.
- **Child Tax Credit** provides help for families on a low income with a child or children.
- **Personal Health Budgets** are available from the NHS based on a person's care plan.
- **Universal Credit** is available in York from 12 July 2017. It replaces Income Support, income-related Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseekers Allowance, Housing Benefit (unless you live in supported accommodation), Working Tax credit and Child Tax Credit. An extra amount is awarded if you have regular and substantial caring responsibilities. You must have capital or savings of £16,000 or less.

Help claiming benefits

- York Carers Centre: **(01904) 715490** or email **enquiries@yorkcarerscentre.co.uk**
- York and District Citizens Advice Bureau: **0844 8269705** or email **advice@yorkcab.org.uk**
- Information and application forms are available on the Government website **www.gov.uk/browse/benefits/disability**

York Carers Centre

(01904) 715490

enquiries@yorkcarerscentre.co.uk

www.yorkcarerscentre.co.uk

City of York Council

(01904) 555111

adult.socialsupport@york.gov.uk

www.york.gov.uk/carers