



Welfare Benefits for people living with dementia

For people over state pension age

From April 2022

ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE (AA)

Attendance Allowance is a financial benefit for people with personal care needs. Attendance Allowance is paid to people who are state pension age or older, who meet the eligibility criteria.

Attendance Allowance has two components, a high rate and a low rate.

Lower rate - £61.85 a week - Require help or supervision during either the day or during the night.

Higher rate - £92.40 a week - Require help or supervision during both the day and night. To qualify a person will have required the help for at least 6 months

You should also apply if the person has difficulties with personal tasks, for example if they take a long time, experience pain or need physical help, like a chair to lean on.

AA is intended to cover some of the extra cost someone with an illness or disability may have because they need care or supervision from another person.

Please note that the person only has to need help, they do not have to be receiving help. A lot of people do not want someone to help them with very personal things and they struggle to manage by themselves. Or the person may be able to care for themselves, but they need to be told to do so – that is called supervision. People with dementia may need supervision rather than physical help.

Attendance Allowance helpline

Telephone: 0800 731 0122; Textphone: 0800 731 0317

CARERS ALLOWANCE

You may be able to claim Carers Allowance if you:

- spend at least 35 hours a week caring for someone
- are aged 16 or over
- are not in full-time education or studying for 21 hours a week or more.
- earn £132 a week or less (after taxes, care costs while you are at work and 50% of what you pay into your pension).

The standard rate is £69.70 a week

The person you care for must also be in receipt of a disability related benefit, for example:

- Attendance Allowance
- Disability Living Allowance
- Personal Independence Payment.

Carer's Allowance is taxable and can also affect other benefits you might be receiving, so you might be paid less in another benefit. It can also affect the benefits of the person you're caring for.

You cannot usually receive Carer's Allowance if you are already claiming State Pension or certain income-replacing benefits such as contributory Employment and Support Allowance (also known as contribution-based ESA).

However, it's still worth making a claim, although you will not get the benefit. If you qualify in all other respects then you might be entitled to top up income on other benefits you receive.

To make a claim for Carer's Allowance:

Online: www.gov.uk/carers-allowance/how-to-claim

Or contact the **Carer's Allowance Unit** Telephone: 0800 731 0297 {Textphone: 0800 731 0317} to order a paper form

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES & COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION

SEVERELY MENTALLY IMPAIRED

Severe mental impairment means a permanent condition which severely affects intellectual or social functioning. This can include conditions like Parkinson's, dementia, and learning disabilities.

You will need a certificate from your doctor saying that you are severely mentally impaired. Be eligible for, at least one disability benefit such as Attendance Allowance, Personal Independence Payment or Disability Living Allowance.

If you are considered severely mentally impaired and you live with one other person who is not mentally impaired, you will get a 25% discount on your Council Tax.

If you are considered severely mentally impaired and you live with two or more other people who are not mentally impaired, you will not get any discount on your Council Tax.

If everyone in the house is severely mentally impaired, you will get a 50% or more discount on your Council Tax.

Your income and savings won't affect whether you can get this discount.

To apply, contact your local authority to ask for the form. Tel: 01708 433997

DISABLED BAND REDUCTION SCHEME OR DISABLED RELIEF

People who need a larger house because of their disabilities or the disabilities of a member of their family can apply to their Council for the Disabled Band Reduction scheme. If you qualify for this, you will be charged Council Tax at a lower rate.

You will need to show that your disabilities or your family member's disabilities mean you need an extra room in your house or extra space for moving a wheelchair around.

Your income and savings won't affect whether you can get help through this scheme.

To apply for this scheme, contact your local authority. Tel: 01708 433997

For advice and information about the benefits mentioned, and other benefits you may be entitled to, please call any of the organisations listed below:

Havering Dementia Advisory Service – provided by Alzheimer's Society

Tel: 01708 739293

Peabody

Tel: 01708 776770

Welfare Rights Unit

Tel: 01708 434444