

FACT SHEET

BENEFITS

There are many different benefits that you may be entitled to claim. Some are for children and adults who have a disability and others are for their parents/carers.

Children

Disabled Living Allowance (DLA)

'DLA' is a benefit for children (under 16) for help with care and mobility costs. It is not means-tested. There are 2 components: 'Care Component' – Low, Middle or High (depending on the level of care that they need) and 'Mobility Component' - Low or High (depending on how much help they need in getting about). You can apply for the 'Care Component' from any age and for the 'Mobility Component' from the age of 3. Most children with A-T will qualify for at least the middle rate of the Care Component and the high rate of the Mobility Component.

Adults

Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

'PIP' helps with some of the extra costs caused by long-term ill-health or a disability if you're aged 16 to 64. There are 2 components 'Daily Living Component' and 'Mobility Component'. Most adults with A-T will qualify for the enhanced rate of both components.

If you are an adult still receiving DLA then the Department of Work and Pensions will write to you to tell you when your DLA will end and to invite you to apply for PIP instead. Most adults with A-T will qualify for PIP. (Children will eventually move onto PIP from DLA when they reach 16).

Motability Scheme

The Motability Scheme enables disabled people to get mobile by exchanging their mobility allowance for the lease of a new car, scooter or powered wheelchair. If you or your child is receiving the High rate of the Mobility Component for DLA or PIP then you would qualify for this scheme. Please go to their website for more information.

www.motability.co.uk

Blue Badge

If you're disabled or have a health condition that affects your mobility, you can apply for a blue badge. You can also apply for a badge if you care for a child with a health condition. If you get certain benefits you'll automatically be able to get a blue badge. Most people with A-T will have a blue badge to help with parking and access. For more information on how to apply please go to www.gov.uk/apply-blue-badge

Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)

If you're ill or disabled, Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) can help with financial support if you are unable to work. The 2 types of ESA are:

- Contribution-based ESA – usually you get this if you've got enough National Insurance Contributions
- Income-related ESA – usually you get this on its own or on top of contribution-based ESA, if you're on a low income

Following an assessment, you'll be placed in either the 'work-related activity group' or 'support group' if you're entitled to ESA. Most adults with A-T will be in the support group. Income, savings and other benefits may affect your eligibility to this benefit, so please check when you are applying.

Carers

Carers Allowance

You could get Carers allowance if you care for a child/adult for at least 35 hours a week and **they** get certain benefits, such as Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Personal Independence Payment (PIP). You cannot get carers allowance if **you** are studying for more than 21 hours per week or if **you** earn more than £110 per week.

- Please note that claiming carers allowance can affect some other benefits that you or the person you care for receive so please do check when you are applying. (DLA and PIP are not affected).

Other Benefits

There are many other benefits that you/your family may be entitled to (for example, Universal Credit, Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance, Housing Benefit, Council Tax Reduction, Tax Credits, Attendance Allowance, Pension Credit).

However these benefits are very specific to individual circumstances, income and savings. For more information please go to www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators where you can work out your eligibility.

- **Note about 'Bedroom Tax'** (also known as under occupancy charge or the spare room subsidy). This is a change to Housing Benefit Entitlement

that means you will receive less in housing benefit if you live in a housing association or council property that is deemed to have one or more **spare bedrooms**. Disabled children are allowed their 'own bedrooms' and carers who stay overnight are counted as having a 'bedroom' to sleep in.

For further information on claiming benefits (including the latest amounts you will receive) the following websites will be useful:

www.gov.uk/browse/benefits

www.citizensadvice.org.uk

www.cafamily.org.uk

Support from the A-T Society

Please contact the 'Support Team' (Kay & Anne) at the A-T Society for guidance on claiming benefits and help with filling in forms: Email support@atsociety.org.uk or call 01582 760733.