



Children and Young People's Services

Tips on Completing Disability Living Allowance and Carer's Allowance Forms

When parents learn about their child/young person's vision impairment, they may wonder whether they can claim any benefits to help financially with the care of their child/young person. You can claim Disability Living Allowance (DLA) whether you are in or out of work. When children are over the age of three months, with vision impairment, which is not likely to improve you can apply for Disability Living Allowance.

If you are making a new claim for a young person aged over 16 years, they can no longer claim Disability Living Allowance, your child/young person has to claim Personal Independent Payments (PIP). If your child/young person is aged 16 years or over and already in receipt of Disability Living Allowance, you will receive a letter informing you of when they will transfer from Disability Living Allowance to Personal Independent Payments. For further information, go to the following website: <https://www.gov.uk/pip/overview>

Eligibility

You need to meet the following eligibility criteria to qualify for Disability Living Allowance for a child/young person details can be found on: www.gov.uk/disability-living-allowance-children/overview

- Be under 16 years of age
- Need extra looking after or have walking difficulties
- Be in Great Britain, another European Economic Area (EEA) country or Switzerland when you claim – there are some exceptions for example, family members in the Armed Forces
- Has to have lived in Great Britain for 2 of the last 3 years, if the child/young person is over 3 years' old
- Be habitually resident
- Not be subject to immigration control



- Children under 6 months must have lived in Great Britain for at least 13 weeks
- Children aged between 6 months and 3 years must have lived in Great Britain for at least 26 of the last 156 weeks.
- The rules of residence do not normally apply if a child/young person is terminally ill.
- The child/young person needs more looking after than a child/young person of the same age who does not have a disability
- The child/young person has difficulty getting around
- The child/young person must have had these difficulties for at least 3 months and it is expected these to last for at least 6 months, if the child/young person is terminally ill (not expected to live more than 6 months, they do not need to have had these difficulties for 3 months.
- If you are applying after your child/young person is aged 16 years, you will need to apply for Personal Independent Payments (PIP).
- By 30 September 2017 all existing Disability Living Allowance claimants (aged 16 to 64 years on 8 April 2013) will have been invited to claim Personal Independent Payments.

When Should I Apply and Does My Child/Young Person Need to be Registered?

Often, it can be difficult to accurately measure a young child/young person's vision impairment and some children may not have a Certificate of Vision Impairment or be registered. However, your child/young person does not need to be registered or have a Certification of Vision Impairment (CVI), to apply for Disability Living Allowance. If your child/young person's sight cannot be measured in these terms the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) may contact your child/young person's Consultant Ophthalmologist to ask their opinion about your child/young person's level of vision loss and their peripheral vision (in relation to the mobility component), to see whether your child/young person meets the criteria.

If an Ophthalmologist has registered your child/young person as being severely sight impaired (SSI) or sight impaired (SI), you should apply for Disability Living Allowance, although registration is not a criterion for Disability Living Allowance, it does strengthen your application.

The form asks for contact details of professionals working with you, it is advisable when first applying for Disability Living Allowance that you contact your Ophthalmologist and request a letter to support your claim.



Disability Living Allowance Components

Disability Living Allowance (DLA), is made up of two components, the Care component and the Mobility component:

Care Component

DLA may be awarded if your child/young person meets the criteria for extra care, above and beyond that of a child/young person without a disability.

There are 3 levels of care component:

1. Low rate care: the child/young person needs help for some of the day or night
2. Middle rate: the child/young person needs frequent help or constant supervision during the day, supervision at night or someone to help while they are on dialysis
3. Highest rate: the child/young person needs help or supervision throughout both day and night or they are terminally ill.

Mobility Component

The rate awarded depends on the level of help the child/young person needs getting about, for example:

- Low rate: the child/young person can walk but needs help and/or supervision when outdoors. The mobility component, for a child/young person not registered SSI and not meeting the criteria relating to this, can apply for the lower rate of mobility at the age of 4 years.
- Highest rate: the child/young person cannot walk, can only walk a short distance without severe discomfort, could become very ill if they try to walk, or the child/young person is severely sight impaired (Blind). Children with additional disabilities, may be eligible for the mobility component from the age of 3 years and could qualify for the higher rate of mobility.

How Do I Apply for Disability Living Allowance on Behalf of My Child/Young Person?

When claiming Disability Living Allowance for a child/young person, you need to make sure that you are completing the correct form – you need the Disability Living Allowance form for Children Under 16 years. You can order a printed form by telephoning the Disability Living Allowance helpline.



Disability Living Allowance
Telephone: 0345 712 3456
Text phone: 0345 722 4433
Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm

The forms will be date-stamped, with two dates, the first date when you requested the forms and a second date you will need to return the form by. You will have six weeks to complete and return the form. A successful claim will be backdated to the first date of request. Don't forget to ask for a Child Disability Living Allowance form! The form tells you where to post your application.

I Have Received the Forms, How Do I Go About Filling Them in?

So many questions, so much repetition!

Before you start filling in the form, keep in mind, the extra attention your child/young person needs due to his/her vision impairment. You must emphasise what your child/young person can only do with help, focus only on your child/young person with a vision impairment and the support you provide for them.

Describe in detail the help needed by your child/young person, on a daily basis, make it clear how much time is spent caring for your child/young person, the form should not be about sleep, but about you getting up at 2.00 am!

State the obvious, what are acceptable every-day things to you, may not be so obvious to others, unless plainly explained by you on the form.

Hint on Applying and Filling in Disability Living Allowance Forms

- Do not under-estimate the task – completing the form may take quite some time, often it is best to “chunk” the writing of the form – possibly answering one question a day.
- Explain in detail, about the extra support you provide to your child/young person on a daily/night time basis. You need to explain to them exactly what you do to help your child/young person with vision impairment.
- Keep a diary for a day or two to help you to breakdown just what kind of support you give to your child/young person.



- The questions are very repetitive – you need to be consistent, if one-night time question is estimated to take 60 minutes, then each night time question needs to be completed as 60 minutes. You may find you are writing the same in response to questions, don't worry about this, you need to explain just what you do. The form is all about the support you give to your child/young person with vision impairment.
- If you feel you may not be able to give a clear and true picture of your child/young person's needs, ask someone to help you fill in the form, a friend, a Social Worker, a Health Visitor. Our Specialist Family Support Officers can advise and support you in the completion of the forms by helping you formulate your responses to the questions.
- Seeking help does not mean you are not up to the task, it means you may not realise that what you do for your child/young person, on a daily basis, is 'extra' support.
- The section below will help you to be more objective, again Specialist Family Support Officers can support you with this. You need to explain in detail the support you give to your child/young person with a vision impairment, if you don't complete the questions as fully as you can with regard to the extra support you give, this may result in an unsuccessful claim.

And Now for a Few Do Not's!

- Do not write on the form about what you want or need to purchase with the Disability Living Allowance, the allowance is about the extra care your child/young person needs, compared with that of a child/young person of the same age, who does not have a vision impairment.
- Do not put "age appropriate", you need to spell out that your child/young person cannot and may never be able to do, as well as friends, school mates. You need to explain that your child/young person requires far more care than a child/young person without a disability of the same age.
- Do not place emphasis on the other children you are caring for. Purely focus on the child/young person you are claiming for.
- Do not mention that you go out to work, or that the child/young person's care prevents you from going to work.

Give the name and address of your child/young person's Ophthalmologist, Paediatrician (if applicable) or Health Visitor, Qualified Teacher of the Visually Impaired, as people who will support your application. **Remember!** - your child/young person's Nursery Teacher, for example, may have little awareness of vision impairment and her report could work against you.



While you are completing the form, you can gather together supporting evidence relating to your child/young person's vision impairment, you will need to list the items on the Disability Living Allowance form. However, a quick note of caution, the Disability Living Allowance form relates to the things your child/young person is unable to do without support and you need to ensure that the information you send talks about your child/young person this way. Positive comments, for example "copes well" or "does well" may be detrimental to your application, resulting in a rejection for Disability Living Allowance so do not send any supporting evidence along these lines. Completing the Disability Living Allowance form can be quite a negative experience, simply because as parents, we all want to express our pride in how well our child/young person is doing or coping, unfortunately, the Disability Living Allowance form is about what your child/young person is unable to do without support.

Someone Who Knows Your Child/Young Person

You do not need to complete this section – but if you decide to complete it, remember their comments need to be about what your child/young person is unable to do without the additional support they need on a daily basis.

Don't forget to sign and date the Consent, if the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) have any queries regarding your application, you are agreeing to them contacting the relevant professional people you have named in the earlier sections, helping the DWP to get a clearer picture of your child/young person's needs.

Complete the section relating to your child/young person, name the eye condition, mention here any other disabilities your child/young person may have. If your child/young person has been Certified or Registered, mention this too, underline to give this emphasis.

When the Child Needs Help

Below are some ideas to think about when completing the form, use your own words in your responses, we have sectioned our sample responses in order to try to fit in with current application forms.

Think – Worst Day, Worst Night

Write about the most difficult times - the person from the Department of Works and Pensions, reading your completed application form, does not know about your child/young person's vision impairment or disabilities.



Mobility

In this section you need to respond to the questions relating to your child/young person's mobility, your child/young person may be able to physically walk normally, however, they also need support in order to achieve this, your child/young person with a vision impairment probably would not be able to keep up with friends, you need to explain the kind of support your child/young person needs.

The box is very small, take advantage of the plain paper beneath this in order to expand on your comments in relation to the mobility questions.

Supporting Movement, Mobility and Co-ordination

- Children with vision impairment will have poor hand to eye co-ordination.
- Does your child/young person need the help of a carer to play with a ball (catching or kicking)?
- Does your child/young person have poor balance?
- What help does your child/young person need?

Supporting Your Child/Young Person When Outside

The next section provides you a further opportunity to expand on the guidance and supervision your child/young person needs when outdoors. Below are a few ideas to support you in completing this section.

- Is your child/young person nervous outdoors?
- Does your child/young person panic if they hear loud noises and cannot locate the source?
- Is your child/young person denied the freedom to run ahead of you in a safe area, for example in the park, does your child/young person lose sight of you and consequently panics?
- Is your vulnerable to the intentions of strangers? (Misses non-verbal cues)
- Does your child/young person need someone to alert them to obstacles in their path, for example, bollards, dog excrement, parked cycles, toddlers on scooters, kerbs, broken paving slabs etc.?
- Can your child/young person judge the speed of moving objects, e.g., swings, roundabouts and traffic?
- Does your child/young person need the help of a carer to access play apparatus in playgrounds?
- Does your child/young person have difficulty with depth perception, do they experience difficulty with steps, especially in unfamiliar environments?



- Has your child/young person got a colour deficit which means he cannot differentiate between red and green for example? (Traffic lights/green man at crossings).

Supporting Your Child/Young Person During the Day

- Does your child/young person have accidents indoors, for example walking into door frames, edges of furniture, cupboard doors, trips over toys, trips and falls – problems with stairs? Give brief details of any recent accidents.
- Does your child/young person need support from someone to ensure they are safe indoors – particularly in unfamiliar places?
- Do you need to maintain a clutter-free environment – always ensuring furniture is not moved and in the same place?
- Your child/young person may cope in a familiar environment, but does your child/young person cope someone else's house, where the layout and positioning of the furniture is unfamiliar?
- Can your child/young person judge the depth of stairs?
- Very young children with vision impairment, can pick anything up and try to eat it.
- Constant care and attention are needed to ensure your child/young person is kept safe from harm and hazards.

Supporting Your Child/Young Person When Getting Up

- Does someone have to wake the child/young person up?
- Do you have to ensure your child/young person is safe on waking?
- Is your child/young person able to occupy itself on waking, or do you have to respond to their needs on waking?
- Is your child/young person disorientated on waking and going to bed?

Supporting Your Child/Young Person When Going to Bed

- Does your child/young person suffer from fatigue at the end of the day caused by the effort of focusing (Nystagmus), which could make your child/young person grumpy and/or bad-tempered?
- Do you have to encourage your child/young person to go to bed?
- Is your child/young person difficult to settle? Do you have to spend time settling your child/young person, talking to them, reassuring them and helping them to settle and go to sleep?
- Perhaps you have to cope with your child/young person's moods at bedtime?
- Does your child/young person wake during the night and require your attention and support to ensure they are safe from harm and hazards?



Supporting Your Child/Young Person with Toilet Needs

- Can your child/young person locate the toilet in your home or at school?
- In unfamiliar places, which are deemed child-friendly, e.g., activity centres, playgrounds, and parties – does your child/young person, unlike his peers, need help to locate and use the toilet?
- Do you need to check the toilet after your child/young person has used it?
- Does he sometimes ‘miss’ the bowl and wee on the floor?
- Can your child/young person go upstairs without help to go to the toilet?
- Does your child/young person need help with zips, buttons, after using the toilet?
- Does your child/young person sometimes miss the toilet – the paper ends up on the floor?
- Does your daughter have monthly periods; does she need your help in anyway with personal care at these times?
- At night can your child/young person get up and go to the toilet without help?
- At night does he/she have night blindness, which causes him/her to panic?
- At night Does he/she need help in locating his/her glasses?
- Don’t forget to account for the time it takes to resettle your child/young person and how you need to reassure and talk to your child/young person to help them to fall asleep at night.

Supporting Your Child/Young Person with Washing and Bathing

- Does your child/young person have difficulties washing or having a bath or shower?
- Can your child/young person put toothpaste on the brush?
- Do you have to help to lift your child/young person in and out of the bath?
- Can he/she differentiate between bottles of shampoo, bubble bath etc?
- Is your child/young person affected by the glare of the tiles?
- Does someone have to tell or encourage the child/young person to wash or have a bath or shower?
- Does he know where the surface of the water is?
- Can your child/young person read settings on shower dials?
- If your child/young person wears glasses, does he/she panic if they get steamed up, or if he/she has to remove them?
- Can he/she see the colours of the taps, e.g., red for hot, blue for cold?
- Does your child/young person panic about water in his/her eyes?



- Does your culture/religion mean your child/young person has to wash at specific times?

Supporting Your Child/Young Person When Getting Dressed and Undressed

- Is your child/young person at an age when he/she should be able to dress independently? (Compare his/her ability with another child/young person of the same age).
- Without help, would he/she put his clothes on back to front or inside out?
- Would he know if his clothes were soiled?
- Can your child/young person manage zip fastenings, buttons, buckles, and laces?
- Can your child/young person recognise colours?
- In school, can your child/young person locate his clothes after PE?
- Can he/she balance on one leg while putting on trousers or pyjamas bottoms?
- Does your child/young person panic when clothes are pulled over his/her face?
- Record how many times he/she changes clothes during the day.
- Specify in minutes how much time you give each time you help your child/young person to dress.

Supporting Your Child/Young Person with Eating and Drinking

- Can your child/young person feed himself on a par with a child/young person of the same age?
- Does he/she appear clumsy with drinks?
- Does he/she have spillages, i.e., misses the edge of the table or knocks drinks over?
- In school, can your child/young person access hot meals?
- If food is prepared buffet style (weddings, birthday parties), does your child/young person need help to locate and select food?
- Can your child/young person drink from an age appropriate cup?
- Unlike children of similar age does your child/young person require food to be cup up or for you to feed him/her?
- Similar to day time eating and drinking
- Some children with additional problems may require extra fluid intake (diabetes for example), which requires the help of a carer during the night.



Help with Medication and Therapy?

- Do you need to encourage and persuade your child/young person to be given eye drops?
- Do you have to prepare medication dosages for your child/young person, would your child/young person be able to pour their own medication and self-administer without your support?
- Do you undertake with your child/young person any therapy regimes they need – would your child/young person be able to undertake the therapy without your support and encouragement?
- Needs to be vision stimulated (e.g., babies) on a daily basis.
- Has speech therapy
- Is learning to Braille and needs help at school or at home.
- Has a Learning Support Teacher/Teaching Assistant in school?
- Is monitored by an Advisory Teacher for the Vision Impaired.
- Receives any other help from a therapist, which involves exercises etc.
- Do you use play therapy to explain to your child/young person about bedtime?
- Do you use play therapy to comfort and settle your child/young person during the night?
- Play and learning takes longer for children vision impaired.
- Do you support your child/young person by 'patching' or management of prosthetic eyes?
- Do you support your child/young person with contact lenses?

Do They Have Difficulty Seeing?

- In this section you can talk about any equipment your child/young person may use in order to help them on a daily basis.
- Explain that children with vision impairment miss non-verbal communication, gestures and facial expressions and need the help of a carer to interpret, explain, or draw their attention to, the cues that they miss.
- You can outline that you have to raise your child's awareness when someone is waving to them, or smiling at them, or blowing a kiss and advise them of an appropriate response.

Supporting Your Child/Young Person with Communication

- Children with sight will mirror expressions; children with vision impairment cannot always do this, as they are unable to see facial expressions. Sighted people rely



on facial expression in order to aid communication, for example, interrupting a conversation by catching a person's eye.

- Children with a vision impairment may feel insecure with regard to interrupting any form of communication.
- Your child/young person could need explanations etc., over a hundred times during the day. You can either be specific or write 'as required' in the Times a Day box. For time in minutes give a range e.g., 3-10 minutes.
- Communication could be affected by your child/young person's poor vision. Does he/she play alone or does he/she interact with other children?
- Is your child/young person at ease with strangers, or does, he/she become clingy? (Some children are clingy by nature – nothing to do with their sight).
- Children with vision impairment can be vulnerable to approaches by strangers and explain how you keep your child/young person safe from harm and hazards.
- Children with vision impairment may need to be encouraged to lift their head and encouraged to turn their head in social settings, especially as they get older.
- Does your child/young person have speech problems, which affect communication?
- Does his/her vision impairment affect your child/young person's confidence, so that he/she is reluctant to communicate with other people?
- Is he/she frightened of strangers?
- Does he/she need the help of a carer to encourage communication with others?
- It is impossible to say how many times a day your child/young person will need help, so, if it is easier, write 'as required' and then be specific in the 'time in minutes' box.
- Explain the encouragement you give him/her to communicate with other people.

Supervision During the Day to Keep Your Child/Young Person Safe

In this section you may find that you are repeating things previously written in the form but please explain the difficulties you experience when endeavouring to keep your child/young person with a vision impairment safe from harm and hazards.

Supporting Your Child/Young Person's Development

- Explain about any problems you have encountered, sometimes, children with vision impairment have a delay in the development of fine motor skills (use of hands and fingers). If your child/young person is late walking or being potty trained, this should be stated on the form talk about the experience you have had in relation to your child/young person's development. If your child/young person



has hearing or speech difficulties explain about how this has affected your child/young person's development

- Children with vision impairment miss non-verbal cues, for example someone pointing, nodding (yes), or shaking their head (no), this means your child/young person is not able to follow instructions given non-verbally and your child/young person will need the help of a carer to alert him/her to the actions required.
- Limited vision restricts your child/young person's understanding of the World around them, children with vision impairment will need the help of a parent/carer to describe a firework display, a field of cows, television programmes etc. The list is endless!
- Daily living skills (dressing, bathing, eating, drinking etc.,) focus on which daily living skills a fully sighted child/young person of the same age can do – but due to your child/young person's vision impairment, your child/young person can only do with help and support.

Supporting Your Child/Young Person Through Play

- Does your child/young person need help with jigsaws, construction sets, colouring, painting etc?
- Does your child/young person need help to stimulate his sight, hearing and sense of touch?
- Does your child/young person need the help of an adult to catch or kick a ball?
- Does your child/young person need the help of a carer to encourage him to complete tasks?
- Children vision impaired do not always like different floor/ground textures and need encouragement to explore and feel safe in environments, this can be achieved through play.
- Parents need to be creative regarding exploration of objects, using play to encourage their child/young person to feel the objects, accompanied by a verbal explanation of the object, helping the child/young person to understand the size and dimensions of the object for example, the size of a car in comparison to a toy car.

Support and Encouragement at School/Nursery

Remember, your child/young person is at school for quite a number of hours each day, do they receive support in order to undertake the activities listed. Use the boxes to describe the difficulties you believe your child/young person experiences/would experience without support.



What Your Child/Young Person Would Do if They Had the Help They Need at Home?

- More time to read books to the child/young person
- Help with homework and studies
- Extra time to play to develop awareness of their environment.
- Communication with other children takes longer and children with a vision impairment may not be able to see well enough to participate.
- Time to develop daily living skills and independence
- Time to explain concepts of the world
- Children have to be taken to the snow to touch and feel, they cannot conceptualise what it looks like, similarly sand on a beach, the shoreline and the sea.
- Help your child/young person to learn daily living skills, for example, how to dress themselves, spread butter onto bread, tie their shoe laces.
- Assistance to ensure he/she is safe
- Comfort and reassurance in a different environment
- Explanations of what is happening
- Help with communication with other children which often takes longer
- Does your child/young person need hand-over-hand help and support, when carrying out tasks
- Help with communication and interaction with others
- More time to play

What Would Your Child/Young Person Do if They Had the Help They Need When They Go Out During the Day or Evening?

- Go swimming
- Attend Sunday School/Church/Mosque/Synagogue
- Go to the Library and take time to pick books in appropriate font size
- Go to soft play groups
- Join and attend Brownies/Guides/Beavers/Cubs/Scouts/Youth Clubs
- Go to Birthday parties
- Visit playgrounds and parks
- Time to go shopping
- Visit the Theatre or Cinema
- Take up sporting activities
- Encourage independence



- Ensure safety
- Provide reassurance and comfort
- Stimulation and play therapy to develop skills
- Help him/her to progress with studies, visiting museums, places of interest
- Encourage communication and help to develop greater interaction
- Ensure comfort and safety
- Help in developing life skills and independence

Extra Information About Care

- Children with vision impairment panic in unfamiliar environments, or, if they lose sight of their parent/carer
- Children who have night blindness may panic in dim light or if they wake at night.
- Your child/young person may get frustrated if he/she cannot complete a task.
- Frustration can lead to aggression, physical and verbal.
- Unlike other teenagers, your child/young person will not be able to storm out of the house and bang the doors, this action can provide a release of tension. Your teenager will become upset and possibly aggressive.
- Your child/young person may become withdrawn if he is excluded from activities with his friends, for example, cycling, ball games and social outings.
- Children vision impaired can get frustrated and can bite and scream when anxious or when they do not feel secure. Parents have to be constantly aware of any situation which may provoke this kind of behaviour.
- Focus on the help he/she needs from you when your child/young person, panics, gets upset, etc.
- Briefly name and explain the effects of your child/young person's eye condition. If your child/young person is registered, mention that here, even if you have mentioned it before elsewhere.
- Is the eye condition variable? If it varies from poor vision to worse depending on circumstances, for example fatigue, dim light, bright light etc., mention this in this section. State if the eye condition is unstable or progressive.
- Children in mainstream school have greater demands on them; text is presented smaller, change of classrooms for different subjects etc. Your child/young person's age is relevant to the demands of education. Depending on your child/young person's stage in the education process, you can express your opinion about his/her changing needs in the future.
- And then add anything else that you feel will help your application.



Consent

- Do not forget to sign and date your Disability Living Allowance Application Form
- You have to supply personal information, give details of how you would like the allowance to be paid (bank, building society, post office).

Now You Are Ready to Send Your Application

- Attach information on your child/young person's eye condition to the application; contact our Specialist Family Support Officer, or the specific support group for the current eye condition information.
- Remember the decision maker will not be an Ophthalmologist and will probably have no awareness of the condition, or its effects on your child/young person's vision.
- If you have an up-to-date medical report on your child/young person's vision, attach that too.
- Your child/young person's Advisory Teacher for the Vision Impaired may be able to provide a report for Disability Living Allowance purposes, or you can approach your Ophthalmologist (but they are usually very busy) or an Optometrist in an eye clinic.
- Photocopy the Disability Living Allowance Application Form and the Evidence you submit - for your own future records.
- Make sure you return the form within the 6-week time limit.

What Happens Next?

- Your application will be acknowledged.
- If you do not already know your child/young person's National Insurance Number, this will be on the acknowledgement form and you should make a note of it.
- The time between applying and receiving a decision varies from region to region. It could be as early as two weeks or as late as four months. If you want to check on progress, ring your Benefit Office, quoting your child/young person's National Insurance number.

Assessments

Following the receipt of your completed Disability Living Allowance application form, you may be notified that your child/young person needs an assessment to check their eligibility for Disability Living Allowance. You will receive a letter, which explains, why and where you need to go and what paperwork you need to take along



for example, a passport or birth certificate as proof of identify for yourself and the child/young person.

What if We Disagree with the Decision?

- Do not despair and do not give up. You have a right to ask for a 'revision' within 1 month of the date you were sent the decision. However, you must keep within the time limit.
- A Revision means that another decision maker will look at your application again. Put your request for a review in writing and simply state that you disagree with the decision and would like a review. If you have been partly successful, then only challenge the part of the award you are not happy with i.e., rate of one of the components. At this point and one of our Specialist Family Support Officers can support and advise you.
- If the Review is unsuccessful, you have the right to challenge the decision at a Tribunal. Again, you must request this within a time limit of 1 month from the date of the decision of the Revision.
- You will need an Appeal Form GL24. Always request an Oral Appeal - this will allow you to interact with members of the Tribunal thus putting your argument over, in a more personal manner. At this stage, you will need help in preparing your submission.

Carer's Allowance

If your child/young person receives the care component of Disability Living Allowance based on the middle or higher rates, you may be entitled to Carer's Allowance. However, you will be required to spend more than 35 hours a week caring for your child/young person during the day or night.

You do not have to live with the person you are caring for, but the care hour's criteria are required. If you care and go to work, there is an earning limit per week and you must not be in full time education, which is classed as over 21 hours per week. You are unable to receive Carer's Allowance if you are in receipt of any of the following benefits:

- Incapacity benefit
- Widow, bereavement, War Widows or Industrial Injuries benefits
- Retirement pension
- Job seeker's allowance or Un-Employability Supplement
- Training allowance



However, if you are in receipt of:

- Income support
- Income based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Pension credit, Housing benefit or Council Tax Benefit
- If you are working, you may still be entitled, however you must not earn more than a set amount (after certain expenses are taken into account).
- For the latest current information:
<http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/AdvancedSearch/Searchresults/index.htm?fullText=carer%27s+allowance>

If you are receiving Income Support and claim Carer's Allowance you may also qualify for Carer's Premium, if you do qualify, Carer's Premium will not automatically be given to you, so make sure you claim. However, the amount of Carer's Allowance will be deducted from your Income Support, but it is worth claiming for both benefits.

Please Note:

If at any time you stop receiving Disability Living Allowance for your child/young person, you will no longer be entitled to claim Carer's Allowance; it is your responsibility to notify the Carer's Allowance Unit.

If an application is successful usually the Disability Living Allowance awarded for a child/young person with Severe Sight Impairment or Sight Impairment, comprises of middle care component and low mobility component. If we can support you at any stage along the process of applying for your child/young person's Disability Living Allowance, please do contact us.

For further support contact:

Tel: 0800 781 1444

Email: cypservices@guidedogs.org.uk