

BENEFITS

Benefits and tax credits offer those in need some financial support. The type of benefit you are entitled to will depend on your needs and your circumstances.

Many people in the UK are likely to qualify for some kind of benefit at some point in their life.

Who gives them?

Most benefits are managed by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) through Jobcentre Plus. Council Tax Benefits and Housing Benefits are managed through Kirklees Council. Benefits for pensioners are managed through pension centres. HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) manage Tax Credits.

Who gets them?

The available benefits fall into four categories:

1. benefits for families and children
2. benefits for disabled people and carers
3. benefits for people of working age
4. benefits for people who have retired or who are planning to retire

Benefits for families and children:

All parents can claim Child Benefit. Those families who have particular needs, such as lone parent families or children with a disability, may be entitled to additional support. Various departments within HMRC and DWP provide these further benefits.

Benefits for disabled people and carers:

Both central and local government provide a variety of support for people who are disabled or ill. There is also support for the individuals who are carers. The kind of support you are entitled to is likely to vary depending on nature of your disability or illness. For example, when your needs are assessed, whether you are going to need to stay in a hospital, the length of your illness, whether you were working when you became ill or disabled, will affect the type and amount of support you are entitled to.

If you are looking for a job, have a low paid job or work part time you may be able to get financial support and advice on finding work from Job CentrePlus, Kirklees Council and HMRC.

Benefits for people of working age:

If you are looking for a job, have a low paid job or work part time you may be able to get financial support and advice on finding work from Job CentrePlus, Kirklees Council and HMRC. Depending on your situation you may be entitled to Job Seekers Allowance, Tax Credits and also receive help with your rent and council tax.

Benefits for people who have retired or who are planning to retire:

Everyone is entitled to a basic State Pension, and many people of pensionable age are entitled to other benefits. These are now administered by The Pension Service.

The Pension Service website:
www.thepensionsservice.gov.uk

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Who Should I contact?

To find out more information about the benefits you are entitled to please contact the following agencies:

Job Centre Plus:

Your local Jobcentre Plus office will help you find the right department to answer any questions you may have.

Address: Castle House, Market Street,
Huddersfield, HD1 2NE

Phone: 01484 228 000
0800 023 4888

DWP:

The DWP provide further information on the benefits that are available.

Website:
<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/lifeevent/benefits/>

Direct Gov:

Direct Gov provides many fact sheets on the different kinds of benefits available.

Website:
<http://www.direct.gov.uk>

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Appealing against a decision

If you do not agree with a decision made by the Jobcentre Plus or Pensions Service about a social security benefit you have claimed or are receiving, then you can usually ask an independent tribunal to decide whether or not the decision is correct.

Leaflet GL24, 'If you think our decision is wrong', gives information on what you can do if you have applied for a social security benefit, but think a decision is wrong. The leaflet explains what you can do for different types of benefit decisions.

You can obtain Leaflet GL24 from your local Jobcentre or online here :

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Dio1/DoltOnline/DG_4017514

Benefit Problems

Barry may be able to help you if you are having problems receiving your benefits. If you contact Barry with your name, address and NI number he can contact the relevant authority.