



Havering

LONDON BOROUGH

WELFARE RIGHTS UNIT

Attendance Allowance for people with a sight loss

From April 2022

Many people over state pension age with a sight loss may qualify for Attendance Allowance if they need help with 'seeing'.

Attendance Allowance is a non means-tested benefit for people age 65 and over.

There are two rates, a lower rate of £61.85 pw and a higher rate of £92.40 pw.

There is a qualifying period of 6 months which means you must have needed help for 6 months to qualify. If you are terminally ill there is no waiting period.

To qualify for the lower rate:

Day Needs – A person must need frequent attention (more than twice) throughout the day in connection with their bodily functions or continual supervision throughout the day in order to avoid substantial danger to themselves or others

or

Night Needs – A person must need prolonged attention (20 or 30 minutes) or repeated attention (twice or more) during the night in connection with bodily functions or need someone awake watching over them at frequent intervals or for a prolonged period during the night in order to avoid substantial danger to themselves or others

To qualify for the higher rate:

A person must have both Day Needs and Night Needs.

For visually impaired people the bodily function that they usually need help with is 'seeing'. Help is often needed with things like:

- **Attending to appearance like shaving or make up**
- **Help with dressing (are clothes clean, matching socks or shoes)**
- **Identifying and reading medicine containers, administering medication, eye drops etc**
- **Help finding items in the kitchen, checking food is fresh, checking sell by dates, help with cutting up food**
- **Help describing and finding food on a plate**
- **Reading and replying to mail**
- **Help when out and about, for example providing guidance, help with money**

There are all sorts of things that a person with sight loss or visual impairment might need some help with in order to live a reasonably normal life – only a few are given above. There will be different needs in different cases depending on the person's lifestyle and interests etc.

ADVICE & HELP

Attendance Allowance helpline

Telephone: 0800 731 0122 {Textphone: 0800 731 0317}

London Borough of Havering

Welfare Rights Unit Advice Line

Leave your name and phone number. We'll then call you to discuss your benefit issue.

01708 434444

Email WelfareRightsUnit@haverling.gov.uk

Citizens Advice Havering:

Telephone Advice

Local Number - 0300 330 2179

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 10 am - 12:30 pm

Tuesday 10 am - 4 pm

Thursday 1 pm - 3:30 pm

Email Advice

On the website, click on the Email Advice button and selecting the area you would like advice on

www.haverlingcab.org

Face-to-face (appointment only)

You can book 30 minute appointments at the local hubs at Harold Hill and Rainham - with the following links;

https://bit.ly/Book_CitizensAdvice_HaroldHill

https://bit.ly/Book_CitizensAdvice_RainhamLibrary

All benefits have complex rules and exclusions. Information provided here is as a guide only rather than a full statement of the rules and regulations. Information provided by Welfare Rights Unit, London Borough of Havering, at April 2022.