



## WELFARE RIGHTS UNIT

### DISABILITY LIVING ALLOWANCE FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 16

**From April 2022**

Disability Living Allowance can be claimed by the person responsible for a child whose care/supervision needs are substantially in excess of a child of the same age who does not have a disability or for the lower rate mobility component substantially more supervision whilst outside walking than other children. DLA is made up of two components, a Care component and a Mobility component. The child would have needed the extra help for at least 3 months and will need it for a further 6 months. If the child is terminally ill this backward and forward test does not apply and the 'substantially in excess' rule does not apply for the care component.

#### Conditions of Entitlement

##### Care Component

The care component is paid if the child needs substantially more help with 'bodily functions' than another child of a similar age who does not have a disability. 'Bodily functions' are speaking, hearing, seeing, sleeping, getting up or going to bed, dressing, bathing, toileting, sitting, moving about, eating, drinking or dealing with medication or therapy.

Or the child needs substantially more supervision i.e. Somebody to keep an eye on them to stop them being a danger to themselves or others.

It is paid at three rates.

The high rate £92.40 per week is paid if the child needs help throughout the day and night.

The middle rate £61.85 per week is paid if the child needs help either during the day or at night.

The low rate £24.45 is paid if the child needs care (but not supervision) for part of the day.

##### Mobility Component

The mobility component has two rates; the rules are different for both rates. Although there isn't a specified distance the guideline is approximately 50 metres.

The high rate £64.50 per week is not paid until a child is 3 or over and is for children who have physical difficulties walking or they are unable to walk. Or the child has severe behavioural problems and is in receipt of high rate care

component. Or they have severe behavioural problems due to a physical cause; these may include Down's syndrome or Autism.

The low rate £24.45 per week is paid to children who are 5 or over, who can walk but need extra guidance or supervision outside. It doesn't matter if they do not need extra help in a place they know well, as long as they need help in places that they do not know well. For example they may have fits or asthma attacks.

When filling in the form a picture needs to be painted of the child's needs, therefore it is a good idea for the parent/carer to keep a comprehensive diary of the child's needs.

How to claim

If the child currently lives in England or Wales you can apply by either:  
printing off and filling in the [DLA claim form](#)  
phoning the Disability Living Allowance helpline and asking for a printed form  
**Disability Living Allowance helpline**  
Telephone: 0800 121 4600 {Textphone: 0800 121 4523}

## **ADVICE & HELP**

### **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@havering.gov.uk](mailto:WelfareRightsUnit@havering.gov.uk)

### **Citizen's 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.haveringcab.org](http://www.haveringcab.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_HaroldHill)  
[https://bit.ly/Book\\_CitizensAdvice\\_RainhamLibrary](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.**