

Children Looked After with Disabilities Living in Foster Care Financial Requirements and Benefits- Transition Arrangements

AGE

On Becoming Looked After

Disability Living Allowance and Child Benefit

1. Where a child becomes looked after, the Child Benefit paid to the parents should cease immediately.
2. Disability Living Allowance should be transferred to the Benefit Appointee (Foster Carer- identified by LCC) or Corporate Appointee (Lancashire County Council) CHECK WITH CSC within 12 weeks of becoming Looked After.

Foster Care to Staying Put/ Shared Lives

If a decision is taken to move into a Shared Lives arrangement, the foster carers must undertake an Adults Services assessment.

For Staying Put, please follow the policy.

Young people will have a financial assessment and may have to contribute to the costs of the Shared Lives arrangement from their PIP, ESA, Housing Benefit and any other income/ capital.

3 to 6 Months Or older

Claiming Disability Living Allowance

- Care component is generally not payable whilst in residential care or in a residential school
- The Care component can be paid whilst in foster care
- Clarify who DLA is paid to
- Care component is paid at 3 different levels
- Mobility component is paid at 2 different levels- Children aged 3-5= Higher Rate. Aged 5 and above= Lower rate

Housing Benefit/ Universal Credit

From the young person's 18th birthday, they should claim Housing Benefit. This should be paid to Lancashire County Council to cover the rent element of the arrangement.

CHECK STAYING PUT ARRANGEMENTS AND LICENSE AGREEMENT.

15 years and 9 months

Foster Carers- Benefit appointees

Foster carers will need to confirm agreement to being the Benefit Appointee for the child's DLA claim and payment. If the foster carer is unable to be the Benefit Appointee, then Lancashire County Council will become the child's corporate Appointee.

The foster carer should have a bank account in their name in which the child's DLA (and other future benefits/ allowances) should be paid. This provides an audit trail of the child's income and expenditure.

*Bank statements must be viewed by the foster carer SW. As a minimum, this will be through the 3x Fostering Supervisory Visits.

Children who are awarded the higher rate Mobility Component may result in their foster carer qualifying for the Motability Scheme, exemption from road tax on a car solely used for the child and a Blue Badge.

Universal Credit

Sick and Disabled Young People in foster care, can claim Universal Credit from their 16th birthday (depending on the level of disability).

If the young person is eligible for Universal Credit, £57.90 of the fostering maintenance allowances ceases and the young person covers their pocket money, clothing and a number of personal needs from their E&SA.

Universal Credit should be paid into the same foster carer bank account where the young person lacks 'Capacity' and the foster carer is the Benefit Appointee.

On becoming Looked After Or qualifying For Middle/ Higher Rate DLA

Carers Allowance

Foster carers may qualify for Carers Allowance if they are looking after the disabled foster child for at least 35 hours per week, the child is in receipt of middle or higher rate DLA and they are not themselves not earning more than £123 per week.

Bank Accounts

The majority of banks/ building societies require an 'adult sponsor' or guarantor/ parent when opening an account for children aged 7 and older to open an account in the child's name, where the child has proof of identify, an adult at the address is required to confirm the child's details.

Children/ young people should only have their accounts in their name where they are able to manage the transitions/ have Capacity.

15 years and 9 months

National Insurance Number

National Insurance Number is issued at aged 15 and 9 months. Any child claiming DLA will already have received this information.

16 years

Personal Independence Payment

At age 16, DLA is replaced by the Personal Independence Payment
PIP has 2 Components a) Daily Living b) Mobility

- From age 16, PIP should be paid to the claimant.

Capacity Assessments

Undertake a (Mental Capacity Act 2005) Capacity Assessment at age 16.

- If the young person has Capacity, all benefits should be paid directly to the young person's own bank account.
- If the young person does not have Capacity, they will continue to require a Benefit Appointee (this could be their foster carer).

Age 18

Age 16

Age 16