

Where to get advice on benefits

All older people should get a benefit check to find out if they qualify for extra benefits. If you do qualify for benefits and have missed out on them you can still claim, as some payments can be backdated up to twelve months.

The organisations listed on this page can help you check that you are getting all the benefits you are entitled to. Local social security offices can also help with this information.

Before contacting any of these organisations you should have the following details to hand:

- National Insurance number,
- bank details,
- savings,
- pension details,
- details of outgoings such as rent or mortgage, and
- housing allowance.

You must let the social security agency know of any changes to your circumstances.

The information on this leaflet was up to date at the time of printing but the benefits or rates may change.

BCC 3263

Organisations

Access to benefits
www.a2b.org.uk

Advice NI
9064 5919
www.adviceni.net

Age Concern and Help the Aged NI
0808 808 7575
info@ageconcernni.org

Citizens Advice Bureau
9023 1120
info@citizensadvice.co.uk
www.citizensadvice.co.uk

NI Direct
Benefit Enquiry Line
Benefits Adviser
0800 200 674
www.nidirect.gov.uk

Winter fuel payment helpline
08459 151515
www.pensionservice.gov.uk/winterfuel

Belfast
informed



Benefits for seniors

We are committed to improving the health and wellbeing of older people who live in and visit Belfast. As part of this, we want to make sure that older people are getting the benefits that they are entitled to.



www.belfastcity.gov.uk/seniors

Here are the main benefits available to older people in Belfast.

Attendance Allowance

Sometimes referred to as AA, this is a tax-free benefit for people aged 65 or over who need help with personal care because they are physically or mentally disabled. There are two rates of Attendance Allowance depending on how your disability affects you.

Higher rate **£70.35**

Lower rate **£47.10**

Disability Living Allowance

A tax-free benefit for people who need help with personal care or have walking difficulties because they are physically or mentally disabled. It has two 'components' – a care component and a mobility component. There are different rates for each component depending on how your disability affects you. Some people will be entitled to receive just one component and others may get both.

Care component
(if you need help looking after yourself or supervision to keep you safe)

Higher rate **£70.35**

Middle rate **£47.10**

Lower rate **£18.65**

Mobility component
(if you can't walk or need help getting around)

Higher rate **£49.10**

Lower rate **£18.65**

Carer's Allowance

A taxable benefit to help people who look after someone who is ill or has a disability. You do not have to be related to, or live with the person that you care for.

Carer's allowance **£53.10**

Earnings limit (at least 35 hours per week) **£95**

State Pension

A regular payment people can claim when they get to State Pension age. Most people build up some State Pension, but the amount they get varies. At the moment, men can claim a State Pension at the age of 65 and women at the age of 60.

Basic rate **£95.25**

Wife on husband's contribution **£57.05**

Couple on husband's contribution **£152.30**

Pension Credit

There are two different types of Pension Credit – Guarantee Credit and Savings Credit. Guarantee Credit (for those 60+) guarantees a minimum income by topping up your weekly income. Savings Credit is for people over 65 or those who have made some provision towards their retirement. You may get the Savings Credit on its own or with the Guarantee Credit.

Guarantee credit (single person) **£130**

Guarantee credit (couple) **£198.45**

Savings credit (single person) **£20.40**

Savings credit (couple) **£27.03**