

Other Relevant Useful Websites

Carers

[Carers](#) - Campaigns and training details as well as some benefit information for carers and their families.

[Government Information for Carers](#) - General information for carers.

Charities

[Charity Choice](#) - List of over 8,000 charitable and voluntary UK organisations.

[New Opportunities Fund](#) - For health, education and environmental projects.

[Directory of Social Change](#) - Produces Guide to Individuals in Need

[Charities Aid Foundation](#) - Publishes guides depending on who you are and what you are looking for.

[Association of Charitable Foundations](#)

[Family Holiday Association](#) - Can give grants towards family holidays for those on low incomes or in financial difficulties.

[Joblinks](#) - is a campaign run by the Occupational Benevolent Funds Alliance, a network of charities who provide a wide range of support services for people with connections to particular industries, trades and professions.

[British Gas Energy Trust](#) - Helps people with gas or electricity supplied by British Gas with utility debt arrears, rent arrears, or a Bankruptcy Deposit etc. Council Tax bills, telephone and household items are fundable in exceptional circumstances.

[Turn2us](#) - Charities search and benefit calculator

Consumer

[Consumer](#) - Government website with help for consumers.

[Trading Standards](#) - Website contains a wide range of consumer information.

[The Financial Services Authority](#) - Material includes the FSA handbook and its consultation and policy statements on financial issues.

[Financial Ombudsman Service](#) - Information about the scope of the Ombudsman scheme, how to complain and the type of redress available.

[Association of British Credit Unions](#) - Includes sections on the role of credit unions, how they are run and regulated. Also has a list of members.

[National Consumer Council](#) - Consumer policy and research organisation. Includes sections on credit and their policy initiatives.

[Council Tax](#) - various websites that provide rules and guidance on the Council Tax

[Communities and Local government website](#) - Rules and guidance on Council Tax and other things. Look under 'Local Government' then 'finance'.

[Local Government Information Unit](#) - Works with affiliated councils on policy development and support including best practice.

[The Valuation Office Agency](#) - Council Tax valuation lists, appeals and policy.

Death and bereavement

[Department of Health site on bereavement](#) - DOH guidance and reports on patients who die in hospital and their relatives Debt and money

[Office of Fair Trading](#) - Website offering advice on the rights of consumers.

[Equifax](#) - Information on credit files.

[Experian](#) - Company offering information on credit files.

[National Debtline](#) - Independent information and telephone advice for people with debt problems.

[Money Advice Trust](#) - Trust promoting training for free money advice services.

[Insolvency Service](#) - Executive agency of the Department of Trade and Industry offering a range of information including bankruptcy.

[Money Advice Association](#) - Website of the National Association for Money Advice workers whose main aim is to promote the development of free, independent money advice services.

[Debt on our Doorstep](#) - A campaigning lobby to promote solutions to the increasing problem of financial exclusion in the UK.

[Money Claim Online](#) - A new facility provided by the Court Service that allows claims for money to be made Online. It also provides links and commentary with regards the County Court process for recovery of money owed.

[Credit Action](#) - Includes a self-help guide for dealing with personal debt and fact sheets about court procedures, negotiating with creditors and preparing financial statements

[Parent's guide to money](#) - By the Financial Services Authority

[Wiseradviser](#) - E-learning resource for money advisors. Includes new items and discussion forums.

[Financial Ombudsman Service](#) - Covers mainly banks, building societies, insurance companies, investment firms, financial advisers etc.

Disability and Health Conditions

[Alzheimers Society](#) - Information and support for public and professionals

[Autistic Society](#) - Help and information, including advice on benefits

[British Council for Disabled People](#) - Links to benefit issues and parliamentary reports (disability related).

[Dementia](#) - Site mainly for professionals.

[Blind](#) - RNIB site with factsheets on benefits for the blind and other useful information.

[Action for Blind People](#) - Several benefit guides for blind people found in 'information'.

[Diabetes UK](#) - Campaign and support for sufferers, including some benefit information - use search.

[Contact a family](#) - This organisation is for parents and others who look after disabled children. Has useful information on benefits especially what happens when a child reaches 16.

[Disability Now](#) - Access to magazine with articles on benefits and more.

[Deaf](#) - RNID site with information on benefits for the deaf and handy links.

[HIV and AIDS - Terence Higgins Trust](#) - Support and guidance.

[National Deaf Childrens Society](#) - Especially for deaf children

[Mencap](#) - For people with learning disability.

[ME Association](#) - Information and support

[MS Society](#) - Information and support

[Disability Rights Commission](#) - Guides and information on the Disability Discrimination Act, with details of how they can help.

[Down's Syndrome Association](#) - Good section on claiming DLA under 'literature' section.

[Youngminds](#) - Award winning site relating to young people and mental health.

Information for professionals and links to other sites

[Dial UK](#) - is a national organisation with a network of 140 local disability information and advice services run by and for disabled people. Gives details of local DIALS.

[Parkinson's Disease Society](#) - For sufferers

[SCOPE](#) - About Cerebral Palsy. Information and support.

[Skill](#) - Advice about benefits for disabled students.

[Stroke](#) - Information and support for sufferers and carers

[Independent Living Fund](#) - Information on this trust, which is to help disabled people pay for independent living. Has useful links to sites on disabilities/illnesses.

[Supported parenting](#) - Aimed at supporting parents who have learning difficulties

[Abilitynet](#) - Expertise and advice on computers and disability.

[Guide for disabled people and their carers](#) - Covers advice and help from the local authority, health services, voluntary organisations; and money and housing advice.

[Disability Discrimination Act](#) - Information on the Act and related guidance

[DirectGov](#) - (search for 'disability' or 'disabled')
Government help and advice for disabled people

[Deaf 24/7](#) - Internet resource for all British Sign Language and deafness related information

[Phenylketonuria support website](#) - Includes DLA help pack (from 2004)
Education

[National Union of Students](#) - Useful information on financial support whilst at college. Information on students and social security benefits, students and Council Tax.

[Student Services](#) - National Association for Managers of Student Services in colleges - benefit and finance information.

[Skill](#) - Advice about benefits for disabled students.

[Support 4 learning](#) - Signpost to relevant organisations and resources

[UKcosa - The council for International Education](#) - Advice for students from overseas. Useful guide on welfare benefits for such students under "Advice for international students"

Employment and Unemployment

[Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform](#) - (BERR)
This has replaced the Department of Trade and Industry's website on employment relations and Employment Tribunals. Information on working parents e.g. Maternity, Paternity and adoption leave and pay.

[Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion](#) - News, publications, advice etc. on unemployment - includes information on New Deal, Jobseekers Allowance.

[New Deal](#) - Government site on their Welfare to Work Strategy, including New Deal and Jobseekers as well as Lone Parents, Disabled and 50 Plus schemes.

[Employment Zone](#) - Govt. programme concentrated in 15 long term unemployment areas

[No sweat](#) - No Sweat is an activist, campaigning organisation, fighting sweatshop bosses, in solidarity with workers, worldwide.

[Working Families](#) - Supporting working parents and carers. Has helpline. Promotes work life balance.

Equal Opportunities

[Equal Opportunities Commission](#) - The new commission is working to eliminate discrimination, reduce inequality, protect human rights and to build good relations, ensuring that everyone has a fair chance to participate in society.

[Fuel Problems](#) - Independent fuel 'watchdog'. Useful for complaints against fuel suppliers.

[Energy Watch](#) - An independent consumer organisation whose aim is to protect the interests of energy (gas and electricity) consumers.

[Health Through Warmth](#) - Help for vulnerable people whose health is affected by cold, damp living conditions.

Gender

Gender Recognition Act Two sites with information about the Gender Recognition Act which - from April 2005 - allows transsexuals to be legally recognised for their acquired gender: -

[Gender Recognition Panel](#)

Housing and Homeless

[Homelesspages](#) - Comprehensive information about homelessness.

[Crisis](#) - Charity for single homeless.

[Groundswell](#) - Offers training, advice, networking, resource development and an information service.

[Shelter](#) - Housing and homeless campaigning organisation's website including their [Roof magazine](#)

[Homeless link](#) - Lots of information and news on homeless issues

[Independent Housing Ombudsman Scheme \(England\)](#) - Covers mainly registered social landlords and some private landlords.