

This information is about benefits for young people Post 16.

Benefit entitlement changes at age 16 and again when you leave education. One of the most important changes is the switch from children's to adult's benefits. This happens between the ages of 16 and 20 depending on your circumstances. Many young disabled people in education or training have the option of claiming benefits in their own right.

Child Benefit and Child Tax Credit

If a young person stays in full time non-advanced education, their parent or carer can carry on claiming Child Benefit and Child Tax Credit up to the young person's 19th, or in some cases 20th, birthday.

Full time education is defined as 12 hours per week, and 'non advanced' includes GCSEs, A levels, and NVQs.

If a young person is 16 or over and they leave full time, non-advanced education to start working, their parent or carer can no longer claim Child Benefit or Child Tax Credit for them.

If a young person leaves school to move into advanced education, such as a university course, their parent or carer can no longer claim Child Benefit or Child Tax Credit for them.

Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is a benefit that has replaced [Disability Living Allowance \(DLA\)](#) for adults aged 16-64.

A young person can claim PIP if they have difficulties in carrying out certain tasks essential to independent living, and problems in getting around out of doors. As part of being assessed they may be asked to attend a face to-face meeting with a health professional.

Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)

Once a young person is 16, they can claim adult benefits such as Employment and Support Allowance ([ESA](#)). ESA is the benefit for people who are unable to work due to having a disability or health condition. It can be claimed by a

young person from age 16, but only if no one is claiming Child Benefit and Child Tax Credit for them.

A young person or their parent/carer should get advice about whether their household would be better or worse off if the young person was to claim Employment and Support Allowance.

Appointeeship – Looking after the benefit claim of a young person

Once a young person turns 16, the benefit system starts to treat them as an adult, and so the young person has to claim and be responsible for their own benefits.

There are many complex responsibilities involved in claiming a benefit, for example:

- managing money
- knowing what changes have to be reported
- knowing how and when to report changes
- making and receiving phone calls from officials
- completing and returning forms promptly
- understanding complex letters and responding promptly.

If a young person is not able to manage their own benefit claim, another adult can apply to be their '[appointee](#)'. An appointee is a person who is responsible for all aspects of another adult's benefit claims. It is common for parents/carers of a young person with SEN to become the appointee when the young person turns 16. An appointee is only responsible for the person's benefit claims, not any other issues.

The most common way for a parent/carer to become an appointee is by telling the Department of Work and Pensions that they want to become an appointee when the young person is approaching 16. If the young person is over 16 already, the parent/carer can contact the office that pays the benefit and ask to be made the appointee.

You can contact MK SENDIAS:

- By completing a [referral form](#)
- Via our [website](#) for lots of useful information and factsheets
- To discuss your concerns by **phone** on 01908 254518
- By [email](#), briefly outlining your concerns
- On [Facebook](#)