

Services for Young Children

Parents/Carers Update – June 2022

Included this month: Cost of Living Support, free NHS eyecare and glasses, nappy libraries, Hampshire Local Transport Plan consultation



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Department for Work and Pensions - Cost of Living Support Announcement

The Chancellor announced a package of support to help households with the rise in the cost of living, including:

£650 one-off **Cost of Living Payment** for those on means tested benefits:

- Universal Credit
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income Support
- Working Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Pension Credit

The payment will be made in two lump sums, the first from July, the second in the autumn. Payments from HMRC for those on tax credits only will follow shortly after each to avoid duplicate payments.

Claimants will need to be in receipt of one of these benefits, or have begun a claim which is later successful, as of 25 May 2022 to be eligible for the first of the two instalments.

£150 one-off **Disability Cost of Living Payment** for those who receive the following disability benefits:

- Disability Living Allowance (including Child Disability Living Allowance)
- Personal Independence Payment
- Attendance Allowance
- Scottish Disability Benefits
- Armed Forces Independence Payment
- Constant Attendance Allowance
- War Pension Mobility Supplement

For the many disability benefit recipients who receive means tested benefits, this £150 will come on top of the £650 they will receive separately.

These payments will be tax-free, will not count towards the benefit cap, and will not have any impact on existing benefit awards.

Energy Bills Support Scheme doubled to a one-off £400 payment

Households will get £400 of support with their energy bills through an expansion of the Energy Bills Support Scheme. As well as doubling the £200 of support announced earlier this year, the full £400 payment will now be made as a grant, which will not be recovered through higher bills in future years.

Contact - Did you know that all children are entitled to free NHS eyecare and glasses?

contact For families with disabled children

Children in special schools should also get a full eye check at least once a year. Children rarely complain of trouble seeing, so it's crucial to identify issues early. This is particularly important for those with a learning disability, who are 28 times more likely to have a problem with their eyes.

Visit their new [Eye Care webpage](#) for advice on eye check.

Read also their information about [hearing](#) and [dental](#) care for your child.

Have you heard of reusable cloth nappy libraries?

Concerned about the environment, and your bank balance? Have you considered reusable nappies? Want to try before you buy? Cloth nappy libraries, which are usually run by volunteers of parents with babies of their own in cloth, are a great way to find out more about real nappies before committing to buying a set of your own. Some cloth nappy libraries also run demo events.



The following libraries are running across Hampshire:

[Andover Nappy Library](#)

[Eastleigh NCT Cloth Nappy Library](#)

[Greener Brockenhurst Nappy Library](#)

[Overton Nappy Library](#)

[Petersfield Area Nappy Library](#)

[Winchester NCT Nappy Library](#)

Check out Hampshire's *Smart Living* website: [Nappy choice for new families | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

We want your views on a draft Local Transport Plan which will define the future of travel and transport in Hampshire to 2050.

If adopted, this will affect how **you** travel, it will affect **your** future. It's important you have **your** say.

Take part by 26 June 2022 at:
[hants.gov.uk/localtransportplan](https://www.hants.gov.uk/localtransportplan)



[Take part in the consultation](#) - The new plan for local transport aims to support the county's economic prosperity, decarbonise the transport system, and help people in Hampshire live healthy lives.

This Plan is designed to ensure that people and goods can move effectively, efficiently and sustainably around Hampshire to support the economy, and people going about their everyday business in the most efficient and sustainable way possible. It will guide the County Council's transport and travel infrastructure planning and design in favour of improving travel choices for people by transforming and widening the appeal of walking, cycling and public transport as an alternative to dependence on private cars.

Residents, visitors and other stakeholders can comment on the Plan by completing the Response Form after reading the Information Pack. Both documents can be found on the County Council's website: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/localtransportplan>