

# Financial Entitlements for Cancer Patients and Carers

This leaflet is intended to identify organisations and charities who may be able to help you and your family cope with the unexpected cost of your illness.

It is important that benefits and financial advice are available at all stages of the cancer journey. As cancer patients and carers we realise there is a need for information about benefits and finances. Think about this now as many benefits will not be backdated.

Whatever your age or financial situation you may be entitled to certain benefits. **Not all benefits are 'means tested' and some benefits automatically qualify you for further entitlements.** So even if you have a good salary or pension and have some savings it might still be worthwhile checking what you are entitled to.

**Don't forget that as a cancer patient you are eligible for free prescriptions. You can apply for an exemption certificate by collecting a FP92A form from your GP surgery or oncology clinic. The form must be countersigned by your GP or hospital doctor.**

You may find it helpful to talk to your employer, or to your Trade Union Welfare Office. Some people also may have paid in to mini health schemes, if you have you may be able to have some of your costs reimbursed. Also, your bank, mortgage provider and insurance company may be able to talk you through different options which are open to you. Planning and seeking advice early can often stop difficulties arising later.

## The Cost of Cancer

Cancer can be expensive!

As a patient or a carer you may:

- need to reduce your working hours.

- need to give up work altogether.
- have additional costs such as increased heating bills, hospital parking charges or extra fuel costs.

Patients on some benefits can also claim back the cost of their travel and parking for their hospital appointments. Please ask your Cancer Information Centre (contact details on last page) or CNS about where to get this information.

Some hospitals have made provision for patients undergoing certain treatments (usually radiotherapy) so they can access free parking and a parking place nearer to the unit where they will receive treatment. Where free parking is not offered there is sometimes the option of purchasing a week's parking at a reduced cost. Again, please ask your Cancer Information Centre or Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) about this.

You may also want to consider contacting your local Social Services Department as you may qualify for a "Blue Badge" which will make parking easier for you when you are out and about. Or perhaps some assistance at home. Their address will be in the phone book or on the internet.

Carers may also be able to apply for benefits. Anyone over 16 years of age can apply for this. Your local support organisation for carers should have information as to whether there are additional payments to which you or your loved one may be eligible.

Some of the national charities offer grants which can be used to help with the cost of cancer, so it may be worth contacting the charities which may support your cancer or that of your loved one, if you are a carer.

### **Charities offering grants include:**

- Brain Tumour UK (through their Denny Fund)
- Charity Grants - help with household bills and costs
- CLIC Sargent (can signpost to grant funding for children, young people and families affected by cancer)
- Council of Voluntary Services
- Leukaemia Care
- Macmillan Cancer Support

The following organisations may be able to provide advice and help with your financial situation:

## Local Information and Support

### BRADFORD & AIREDALE

#### **Cancer Support Bradford and Airedale**

Daisy House Farm, 44 Smith Lane

Bradford BD9 6DA

Tel: 01274 776688

[www.bradfordcancersupport.org.uk](http://www.bradfordcancersupport.org.uk)

Opening hours: 9am – 5pm Mon to Fri

#### **Welfare Rights Telephone**

Tel: 01274 777711

#### **Cancer Information Centre**

Main Entrance, Bradford Royal Infirmary

Tel: 01274 364307 Fax: 01274 366960

Email: [Cancer.Informationcentre@bthft.nhs.uk](mailto:Cancer.Informationcentre@bthft.nhs.uk)

Opening hours: 10am – 4pm Mon to Fri

### CALDERDALE & HUDDERSFIELD

#### **The Jayne Garforth Information & Support Centre**

Macmillan Unit, Calderdale Royal Hospital

Tel: 01422 222 709

(please call for opening times)

#### **Calderdale Citizens Advice Bureau**

Tel: 01422 842 848

#### **Calderdale Disabled Advice Resource Team (DART), Cancer Support Service**

Tel: 01422 346 040

#### **Kirklees Benefits Advice Service**

Tel: 01484 416 960

Email: [benefit.adviceservice@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:benefit.adviceservice@kirklees.gov.uk)

#### **Kirklees Citizens Advice Bureau - Huddersfield**

Tel: 0844 8487970

#### **Noah's Ark Centre - Debt Advice and Money Management**

(for the people of North Halifax)

Tel: 01422 364664

Email: [debt@noahsarkcentre.org.uk](mailto:debt@noahsarkcentre.org.uk)

Web: [www.noahsarkcentre.org.uk](http://www.noahsarkcentre.org.uk)

### HARROGATE

#### **Citizens Advice Bureau**

Victoria Park House, Harrogate

Tel: 01423 503591

Advice Line: 0844 111444

Web: [www.harrogatecab.org.uk](http://www.harrogatecab.org.uk)

#### **Carers Resource**

11 North Park Road, Harrogate

Tel: 01423 500555

Harrogate Hospital Cancer Nurse Specialists can signpost to other appropriate organisations as required.

Tel: 01423 555719 (team secretary)

### LEEDS

#### **Robert Ogden Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Centre**

St. James's University Hospital

Tel: 0113 206 6498

Opening hours: 10am - 4pm Mon to Fri

Telephone queries can be taken

8.30am – 4.30pm

#### **Information Care & Support Service**

Radiotherapy Information Lounge, Level B2, Bexley Wing, St. James's Institute of Oncology

Tel: 0113 20 67603

Opening hours 8.30am - 4.30pm Mon to Fri

## **Information Lounge**

Oncology Out Patients Department, Level 1,  
Bexley Wing, St. James's Institute of Oncology

Tel: 0113 206 8816

Email: [cancerpatientinformation@leedsth.nhs.uk](mailto:cancerpatientinformation@leedsth.nhs.uk)

Opening hours: 10am – 4pm Mon to Fri

Telephone queries can be taken

8.30am – 4.30pm

## **Macmillan Welfare Right Advice (Leeds)**

Tel: 0113 3760452

## **MID YORKSHIRE**

### **Benefits Advice in Wakefield**

Tel: 01924 302085

### **The Springs Advice Centre**

The Springs, Wakefield WF1 1PU

Tel: 01924 302085

Email: [springsadvicecentre@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:springsadvicecentre@wakefield.gov.uk)

Opening hours: 1 – 4pm (Mon and Tues),  
closed Wed and 10am – 1pm (Thurs and Fri)

### **Kirklees Benefits Advice Service**

Batley Town Hall Annexe, Brunswick Street,  
Batley WF17 5DT

Tel: 01924 326010

Email: [benefit.adviceservice@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:benefit.adviceservice@kirklees.gov.uk)

### **Wakefield CAB**

27 King Street, Wakefield WF1 2SR

Tel: 0844 499 4138

Web: [www.wakefielddistrictcab.co.uk](http://www.wakefielddistrictcab.co.uk)

Opening hours: 9am – 5pm Monto Fri (Thurs  
9am – 8pm) and first Saturday of every  
month 9am – 1pm

### **Kirklees CAB**

Tel: 0844 411 14444

Web: [www.kirkleescitizensadvice.co.uk](http://www.kirkleescitizensadvice.co.uk)

## **Pontefract CAB**

1st Floor, Horsefair House, Horsefair,  
Pontefract WF8 1NX

Tel: 0844 499 4138

Web: [www.wakefielddistrictcab.co.uk](http://www.wakefielddistrictcab.co.uk)

Opening hours: Wed & Fri: 10am – 1pm

## **Wakefield CAB drop-in sessions**

### **Castleford Outreach**

5 Towns Resource & Technology Centre,  
Welbeck Street, Castleford, WF10 1DP

Times: Thurs 10am – 1pm

### **Featherstone Outreach**

The Old Town Hall, Wakefield Road,  
Featherstone WF7 5WW

Times: Mon 10.15am – 1pm

**Hemsworth Outreach**, Hemsworth Library,  
Market Street, Hemsworth WF9 4JY

Times: Thurs 10am – 12pm

**Normanton Outreach**, Normanton Town  
Hall, High Street, Normanton WF6 2DZ

Times: Mon 10.15am – 1pm

### **South Elmsall Outreach**, Westfield

Resource and Enterprise Centre,  
Westfield Lane, South Elmsall WF9 2PU

Times: Tues 10am – 1pm

## **Wakefield Council**

Tel: 0845 8 504 504

## **YORK**

York Cancer Care Centre

Junction 5 Entrance, York District Hospital

Tel: 01904 72 1166

Opening hours 9am – 4.30pm Mon to Fri

## **Citizens Advice Bureau (York, Selby and District)**

Tel: 0844 8269705

# National Information and Support

## Age UK

Tel: 0800 169 8787

Web: [www.ageuk.org.uk/money-matters](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/money-matters)

## Citizens Advice

Web: [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk) or [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk)

## Department for Work and Pensions

Tel: 0800 882 200

Textphone: 0800 243 355

Web: [www.dwp.gov.uk](http://www.dwp.gov.uk)

## Job Centre Plus Offices

Tel: 0800 055 6688

Textphone: 0800 023 4888

Web: [www.direct.gov.uk/en/Employment/Jobseekers/ContactJobcentrePlus/DG\\_186347](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Employment/Jobseekers/ContactJobcentrePlus/DG_186347)

## Macmillan Cancer Support

89 Albert Embankment, London, SE1 7UQ

Tel: 0808 808 0000

Opening hours: 9am - 8pm Mon-Fri

Web: [www.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.macmillan.org.uk)

## Pension Service

Tel: 0845 6060265 (local rate call)

[www.dwp.gov.uk/about-dwp/customer-delivery/the-pension-service](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/about-dwp/customer-delivery/the-pension-service)

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