

## Child Support Maintenance

If you are bringing up a child who has a parent living somewhere else in the UK or who is living and working abroad for a UK based employer and are claiming Income Support or income-based Job Seeker's Allowance you must usually apply for Child Support Maintenance. A new child support scheme was introduced in March 2003 to simplify the process and give greater powers to the Child Support Agency (CSA) to ensure that maintenance can be calculated quickly and collected effectively

For more information call **08457 133 133**

## Children with Special Needs

If you are bringing up a child who is ill or disabled, you may be able to get Disability Living Allowance or Incapacity Benefit. information about these is in leaflet SD3 'Long term ill or disabled?' available from your local Social Security office or visit

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

The Family Fund also helps families caring for a severely disabled or seriously ill child, under the age of 16, through grants and information on a wide range of topics. Grants are targeted at low income families, and can help with anything related to the care of the child from clothing and bedding through to driving lessons and holidays. The Fund is an independent body, funded by the national governments of England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.

For more information call **0845 130 45 42**

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## Useful Information

I have included useful telephone numbers and websites to provide you with additional help.

### Tax Credit Enquiries

0845 300 3900

<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits/>

### Jobseeker Direct

0845 606 0234

[www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk](http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk)

### Child Benefit Enquiry Line

0845 302 1444

### Disability Living Allowance Helpline

0800 88 2200

[www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk](http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk)

### Lone Parents Helpline

0808 801 0323

### Childcare Link

0800 0960296

[www.childcarelink.gov.uk](http://www.childcarelink.gov.uk)

## 5 Ways to contact Nia

Contact Nia at Westminster -

- House of Commons, London, SW1A 1AA
- Tel: 0207 219 6102
- Email: [griffithn@parliament.uk](mailto:griffithn@parliament.uk)

or in Llanelli

- 6 Queen Victoria Rd, Llanelli, SA15 2TL
- Tel: 01554 756374

# A Better Start, a Brighter Future

**A guide to support for  
children and their families**



**Nia Griffith MP**  
**Llanelli**

Labour  Llafur

## Child Benefit

The Government gives every parent like you (or carer who lives with the child and is responsible for them) whose child is under 16 (or over 16 and in relevant education or training) £20.00 a week for the eldest child and £13.20 a week for each other child.

## Child Trust Fund

The Child Trust Fund (CTF) is a savings and investment account for children. Children born on or after 1 September 2002 receive a £250 voucher to start their account. The Government wants everyone to have some money behind them to start their adult life, so the account belongs to the child and can't be touched until they turn 18. An additional £250 is given to those children in families on Child Tax Credit (CTC) and income below the CTC threshold (currently £13,910). The CTF is based on entitlement to Child Benefit, so no separate claim is necessary. Parents, families, friends and the child themselves will be able to contribute up to £1,200 a year between them. All income and gains will be exempt from personal tax. For more information call **0845 302 1470**.

## New Deal for Lone Parents

New Deal for Lone Parents can help you find a job or suitable training to bring your skills up to date. It is available to all lone parents who are not working, or who are working less than 16 hours per week and whose youngest child is under 16 years old. If you agree to take part you will have your own personal adviser who will help you to apply for jobs and explain what financial help you may be entitled to when you start work. For more information call **0800 868 868**.

Welcome to this guide detailing support for children and those who care for them. There are many entitlements available to children and their carers, many of which have recently been introduced. If you need further information please get in touch with my office T: 01554 756374

**Nia Griffith MP**

## Child Tax Credit

Child Tax Credit (CTC) is the main way families get support for their children and for 16–18 year olds in education. (It replaces support for children previously provided by Working Families', Disabled Person's and Children's Tax Credits. From 2004 it also replaced the child-related elements of Income Support and income-based Jobseeker's Allowance.) The amount you get paid is based on your income and you can claim whether or not you are in work. For more information call **0845 300 3900**

## Working Tax Credit – Child Care Element

Working Tax Credit (WTC) supports working households on low incomes by topping up earnings. (It replaces the adult support previously provided by Working Families' Tax Credit, Disabled Person's Tax Credit and the New Deal 50plus Employment Credit.) It is made up of a number of elements, one of which helps with the cost of registered or approved child care. The

Child Care Element can provide help with up to 70% of your child care costs, subject to maximum limits.

For more information call **0845 300 3900**

## Maternity/Paternity/Adoption Pay

Statutory Maternity Pay (SMP) or Maternity Allowance (MA) has been extended to the first 39 weeks of maternity leave. New fathers may also be eligible for two weeks paternity leave and to be paid Statutory Paternity Pay (SPP) for those weeks. Statutory Adoption Pay (SAP) is also available for the first 26 weeks of ordinary adoption leave.

You can get more information about these in the leaflet **BC1 'Babies and Children'** available from your local Social Security office or visit [www.dwp.gov.uk/publications](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications)

## Sure Start Maternity Grant

The Sure Start Maternity Grant is a one-off payment to help with the cost of a new baby. You can claim from 11 weeks before your baby is due, until 3 months after the baby is born. In order to claim a Sure Start Maternity Grant you or your partner should be receiving one of the following:

- Income Support;
- income-based Job Seeker's Allowance,
- Pension Credit,
- Working Tax Credit where a disability element is included or
- Child Tax Credit at a rate higher than the family element.

You can get more information about this in the leaflet **NI17A 'A Guide to Maternity Benefits'** available from your local Social Security office or visit <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/advisers/ni17a/>