

Pregnant or new parent information sheet

Please note that while this information is correct at the moment the current UK Government is bringing in large changes to the whole benefits system from April 2013. This should be kept in mind when planning for the future.

Child Benefit

Child Benefit is a tax-free payment that you can claim for your child. It is usually paid every four weeks but in some cases can be paid weekly, and there are separate rates for each child. The payment can be claimed by anyone who qualifies, whatever their income or savings.

You may have got an application form from the 'Bounty Pack' that's given to new mothers in hospital.

If you have problems getting a claim form, please contact the Child Benefit Helpline on **0845 302 1444**.

<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/childbenefit/claim-info.htm>

Working & Child Tax Credit

See Parents information sheet. You are likely to get some tax credit if your income is less than £58,000 a year (£66,000 if you have a child under the age of one).

Sure Start Maternity Grant

This is a one-off payment of £500 to help pay for things you need for a new baby if you are on a low income. The grant is tax-free and does not have to be paid back.

To qualify, you, or your partner, must be getting one of these benefits:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit which includes a disability or severe disability element
- Child Tax Credit, at a higher rate than the family element

Application form can be obtained from your Health Visitor or download it on:

http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk/JCP/Customers/WorkingAgeBenefits/Dev_013950.xml.html

Health in Pregnancy Grant

If you're a mum-to-be you may be able to get a one-off, tax-free payment. The payment is called 'Health in Pregnancy Grant'. The money is to help you stay well and healthy and to meet extra costs during the later stages of your pregnancy.

You can get a one-off payment of £190 for each pregnancy. The payment will be on top of any other benefits or tax credits you may get. Everyone will get the same amount - you will not be asked about your income.

To apply you can contact the Health in Pregnancy Grant Helpline, which is open from 8.00 am and 8.00 pm on Tel 0845 366 7885

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/MoneyTaxAndBenefits/BenefitsTaxCreditsAndOtherSupport/Expectingorbringingupchildren/HealthinPregnancyGrant/DG_173503

Statutory Maternity Pay

Statutory Maternity Pay is paid by your employer, providing you with some money to help you to take time off work before and after the birth of your baby.

It is paid for 39 weeks. The first 6 weeks is paid at 90% of your average weekly earnings and the remaining 33 weeks is paid at the Standard rate of £117.18 a week or a rate equal to 90% of your average weekly earnings. You will get whichever rate is lower.

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/specialist-guides/technical-guidance/ni17a-a-guide-to-maternity/>

Maternity Pay

If you're pregnant or have a new baby but don't qualify for Statutory Maternity Pay (SMP), you may be able to claim Maternity Allowance (MA) through Jobcentre Plus.

You may be eligible if:

- You've been employed and/or self-employed for at least 26 weeks in your 'test period' (66 weeks up to and including the week before the week your baby is due). Part weeks count as full weeks; and

- You earned £30 a week averaged over any 13 weeks in your test period

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/MoneyTaxAndBenefits/BenefitsTaxCreditsAndOtherSupport/Expectingorbringingupchildren/DG_10018869