

Services for Young Children

Parents/ Carers Update March 2023

Included this month: Support for bereaved families, Ask for ANI pilot, benefits increase from April 2023, 30 hours childcare and Tax-Free Childcare reminder

Support for bereaved families extended

Bereaved cohabitants with dependent children can now claim additional financial support. Following Parliamentary approval of the draft Bereavement Benefits (Remedial) Order 2022, parents who were not married or in a civil partnership with their late partner can now claim Widowed Parent's Allowance or the higher rate of Bereavement Support Payment.



Some people may be eligible for backdated payments if their partner died before the law was changed on 9 February 2023. More details on how to claim can be found on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

Ask for ANI (Assistance Needed Immediately) pilot

In a new pilot launched, victims of domestic abuse will now be able to 'Ask for ANI' in 18 jobcentres and job and benefit offices across the UK. Anyone using the codeword will receive support from a trained staff member who will guide them to a safe and private space where they can help call the police or specialist domestic abuse services. Building on the success of the scheme in pharmacies across the UK, the Ask for ANI codeword scheme pilot offers a discreet route to get urgent help and support.

A new [postcode checker](#) has been launched to enable anyone to locate their nearest Ask for ANI service. More information can be found on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

Benefits increase from April 2023



Department
for Work &
Pensions

From April 2023 most benefits rates will increase by 10.1%.

- Child Benefit will increase from £21.80 to £24.00 for the 1st child and from £14.45 to £15.90 for any other children.
- Universal Credit and Tax Credit are also increasing by 10.1%.
- Carer's Allowance will be £76.75.
- Statutory rates for maternity, paternity, adoption, parental bereavement and shared parental pay will increase from £156.66 to £172.48 per week.

Read more here [Benefit and pension rates 2023 to 2024 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/benefit-and-pension-rates-2023-to-2024)

Important! Accessing 30 hours childcare or Tax-Free Childcare, or wanting to apply to start in April 2023?

If your child is receiving 30 hours childcare or Tax-Free Childcare, make sure you re-confirm your information; or apply for the funding **before the 31 March** to ensure that your child receives their entitlement with no gaps or delays from April 2023.



To re-confirm* or apply, visit: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

*Parents who already access the funding must check their childcare account to re-confirm.