

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) – basic principles for foster carers claiming DLA on behalf of a child placed in their care.

All applications for DLA on behalf of the foster child should be done so within the Care plan and with the knowledge of the child's social worker and/or parents.

Where a foster carer is an appointee expenditure of DLA will be appropriate to the child's needs and within the general framework agreed via the Care plan.

Expenditure of DLA will be transparent through clear record keeping by the foster carer and monitored on a regular basis by the Family Placement Worker.

Where appropriate a child/young person should know they are in receipt of DLA and have a say in how this is used.

Where they are able a young person should be able to claim DLA in their own right.

When a child moves placement DLA arrangements will be transferred to the new placement.

Good practice guidelines for foster carers to adhere to the basic principles.

1) When a child becomes looked after the social worker will check if DLA is already being claimed.

2) If the child is **not** in receipt of DLA their eligibility will be monitored through the statutory LAC review process.

3) Where the LAC review recommendation is to make an application for DLA for the child/young person the review will clarify:

- Who will apply for the DLA?
- If the child/young person can claim in their own right or if the foster carer is to apply for appointee status.
- General framework for expenditure if application successful.

4) On receipt of DLA for a child in placement the foster carer will:

- Set up a separate bank/building society account for funds to be paid into.
- Keep clear records of expenditure as agreed in care planning.
- Provide receipts as appropriate.
- Incidents where a receipt is not possible a log record is to be maintained.
- Receipts and log record to be made available to the Family Placement Worker at 3 monthly supervision visits.

5) Review of DLA – eligibility to claim DLA and agreed expenditure for child in receipt of DLA will be reviewed through statutory LAC reviews and Annual Foster Carer reviews.

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