

Welcome to our Newsletter!

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The purpose of this newsletter is to let you know about the valuable work of **Disability and Social Care Advice Service (DASCAS)** in Wandsworth and our recent achievements.

What do we do?

DASCAS (previously known as the Disabled Advice Service) has been in existence since 1977 and provides an advice and information service for people with disabilities, their carers and professionals.

- We offer a dedicated **daily advice line** on any aspect of disability and social care.
- We assist clients with **claiming disability benefits**
- We give **advocacy and support** up to tribunal level in disputed cases.
- We give **priority to the housebound**.

Last year we dealt with

4179 telephone enquiries

734 office interviews

543 home visits
2008/9

271 successful claims for Disability Living Allowance

100 successful claims for Attendance Allowance

Successful Claims totalled:
£1,317,391!!!!

“Very good service”

“I am very grateful for the help I had from your office”

“... (staff) give excellent information and good advice and also they listen to me very well”

**Responses from our annual user survey
March/April 2010**



0208 333 6949
10 - 4PM
Monday to Friday
info@dascas.org.uk

DASCAS is an Incorporated Charity. Registered Charity No. 1110811, Company number 05459909. Get in touch if you would like to become a member and receive a copy of our annual report or if you are a member and your contact details have changed let us know!

How to contact us

- The office is open **10:00am to 4:00pm, Monday to Friday** to give advice to personal callers or via the helpline **0208 333 6949**
- Our advice is **impartial and independent**. If the line is busy messages can be left on the voicemail.
- We are able to **arrange interpreters or British Sign Language** if necessary.
- We see clients at home or at our offices. We **prioritise those who are housebound**. Every client must have an **initial assessment** to check eligibility first. If appropriate we can also help with **completing relevant benefit claims**. This is usually done on a follow up appointment.
- We are supported by a **dedicated team of volunteers** who help run the advice line. They also do a majority of necessary **form filling**.
- We ensure that we follow up any claims until their conclusion. We understand that sometimes things do not go to plan and we may have to consider whether an appeal is justified. We look at each case individually. If necessary we may be able represent a client at an appeal in person.

Benefit rates

Benefit rates (from 6 April 2010) PER WEEK

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) Care component:

Highest rate	71.40
Middle rate	47.80
Lowest rate	18.95

Mobility component:

Higher rate	49.85
Lowest rate	18.95

Attendance Allowance

Higher rate	71.40
Lower rate	47.80

Pension Credit

Standard minimum guarantee

Single	132.60
Couple	202.40

Income support

Personal allowances

Single person	under 25	51.85
	25 and over	65.45
Couple	both 18 or over	102.75

Date for your diary

Friday 16th July 2010

AGM

Contact us 0208 333 6949 or email:
info@dascas.org.uk for further
details

The main benefits we deal with: Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance, Incapacity Benefit, Employment Support Allowance, Industrial Injuries Benefit, Social Fund, Freedom Pass, OT referrals. We also provide general advice about disability and social care issues.