

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) Guide

For Parents of Children on Long-Term Ventilation

Pan Thames Paediatric LTV Programme



North Thames Paediatric Network
Connecting paediatric services



South Thames Paediatric Network
Specialising paediatrics for children and young people



What is DLA?

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) is a benefit designed to help with the additional costs of caring for a child under 16 who has a disability or health condition. If your child requires long-term ventilation, they may qualify for DLA to support both their care and mobility needs.

Who Can Claim DLA?

To qualify for Disability Living Allowance, the following criteria must be met:

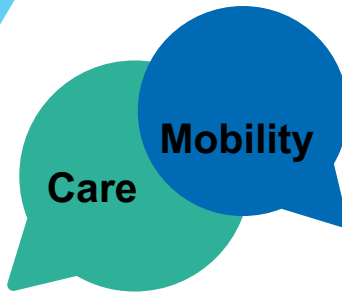
- **Age Requirement:** The child must be under 16 years old.
- **Health Condition:** The child has difficulty walking or requires additional care due to a disability or health condition. This condition must have lasted (or be expected to last) at least 3 months, with the need for continued support expected for at least another 6 months.
- **Care and Mobility Needs:** The child may qualify for the Care Component, the Mobility Component, or both, depending on the level of help required for daily tasks and mobility.

For children under 3 years old, only the care component is considered, as mobility needs are not assessed until after the age of 3.

Long-term ventilation may qualify as a severe medical condition under DLA's care and mobility criteria.

DLA Components

DLA is split into two components:



Your child may be eligible for one or both, depending on their needs.



Care Component

The care component is awarded to children who need additional help with daily tasks. For children on LTV, this might include:

- **Administering ventilation and monitoring equipment.**
- **Frequent medical intervention** throughout the day or night.
- Support with daily activities like **feeding, dressing, or bathing.**

The care component has three rates:

Lowest rate: £28.70 per week – for children needing some help or supervision during the day.

Middle rate: £72.65 per week – for children who need frequent help or continual supervision during the day or night.

Highest rate: £108.55 per week – for children who need round-the-clock care or who are terminally ill.

Mobility Component



The mobility component is for children who have difficulty getting around. Children on long-term ventilation may be eligible for this component if they require:

- **Assistance with mobility due to medical equipment.**
- **A wheelchair or specialised vehicle.**

The mobility component has two rates:

Lower rate: £28.70 per week – for children who can walk but need guidance or supervision when outdoors.

Higher rate: £75.75 per week – for children who are unable to walk or experience severe difficulty walking.

A ventilated child who requires 24/7 monitoring/supervision would expect to receive the highest rate of the care component.





How to Apply for DLA

You can apply for DLA by:

- Online Application: [Apply for DLA online](#)
- By Post: Call the DLA helpline to request a paper form: **0800 121 4600**



It is recommended to order a DLA form by phone, as this will set your claim's start date to the day of your call. Once you receive the form, be sure to return it within 6 weeks to guarantee payments are backdated to the call date.

**TOP
TIPS**



Provide detailed information about your child's care and mobility needs, including their medical condition, necessary equipment, and how often they need help day and night. Be sure to describe how long-term ventilation impacts their daily life and care requirements.

Additional Support and Resources

Contact Information

DLA Helpline: 0800 121 4600

Website: [gov.uk/disability-living-allowance-children](https://www.gov.uk/disability-living-allowance-children)



Visit the [Long-Term Ventilation \(LTV\) website](#) for further guidance and support for carers



In addition to DLA, you may be eligible for other benefits and support, such as: **Carer's Allowance, Blue Badge Scheme & specialised medical equipment funding.**

For more details, scan the QR code above to visit the GOV.UK