

**5-Money Matters**

**Benefit Advice**

Benefit Advice can be obtained from a variety of sources:

**The Citizens Advice Bureau:**

Worcester 0344 411 1303

Droitwich 0344 411 1303

Bromsgrove 0844 411 1303

Malvern 01684 563611

Evesham 01386 712100

Kidderminster 0344 411 1444

Tenbury 01584 810 860

**D.I.A.L (Disability Information Advice Line)** offices are located in Kidderminster and Worcester. Kidderminster DIAL can be contacted on 01562 60241. They cover the North Worcestershire area. DIAL South Worcestershire can be contacted on 01905 27790. [www.dialuk.org.uk](http://www.dialuk.org.uk/)

**The Sensory Impairment and Telecare Team** also has a benefits advisor who may be able to assist you.

Telephone: 01905 768053 for information.

**Action for Blind People**

Telephone via RNIB 0303 123 9999 [www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk](http://www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk/) Action for Blind People can provide independent and confidential advice regarding benefits for people with visual impairments.

**Department for Work and Pensions**

For people with a disability, carers and representatives.

0345 608 8545 www.dwp.gov.uk

**RNIB Welfare Rights and Community Care**

**Advocacy Service**

Telephone: 0303 123 9999

Provides a helpline which is open Monday to Friday, from 9.00am - 5.00pm

**Financial Benefits**

Depending on your circumstances you may be entitled to extra financial benefits and assistance. Welfare benefits are complex and there are frequent changes. We would advise you to contact one of the aforementioned organisations to ensure you receive up-to-date advice.

**Income Tax**

If you are registered as severely sight impaired you will be able to claim a Blind Person’s Allowance. A married couple can transfer any surplus allowance from one to the other. [www.hmrc.gov.uk](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/)

**Concessions**

**TV Licences**

Telephone: 0300 790 6131 [www.tvlicensing.co.uk](http://www.tvlicensing.co.uk/)

A 50% concession applies if you are registered as severely sight impaired and are the licence holder. Anyone over 75 is entitled to a completely free licence.

**NHS Benefits**

You may be entitled to free NHS sight tests if you are

registered as blind or partially sighted and/or free prescriptions because of age, low income or medical conditions. For further information on entitlement and an application form you will need to complete a FP92A form available from your local doctor’s surgery, chemist or benefits agency.

**Council Tax Reduction**

You may be entitled to a reduction in your council tax bill if you need to use a specific room in your home due to a disability.

This may include the need to house specialist equipment such as CCTV or IT/scanning equipment. For further information contact your local county council.

**Banking and Bills**

Most banks and building societies offer a range of services to support you, including telephone banking, internet banking, large print or Braille bank statements and correspondence.

They may also be able to provide cheque book guides to assist with writing cheques. For further information please contact your bank.

There is also the option of having a “Chip and Signature” card rather than using a PIN number. The card is inserted into the machine as usual but it tells the cashier that a signature is required. For further information please contact your local bank, building society or credit card company.

Most companies will provide your bills in large print, read your bills over the telephone and may have other services that could assist you.