

Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)

What is Employment and Support Allowance?

You can now only make a new claim for (contributory) [New-Style ESA](#) – this can be paid alongside Universal Credit but it is deducted from your UC payments. To apply for New-Style ESA go to the gov.uk [Employment Support Allowance page](#)

Statutory Sick Pay (SSP)

Employees who are sick may be entitled to Statutory Sick Pay. Entitlement depends on your earnings amount and so on, and is payable for 28 weeks. You may be entitled to a [Universal Credit](#) top-up whilst working or on SSP or on other benefits. You can claim New-Style ESA once your SSP runs out – or claim it if you aren't entitled to SSP. See [more details about SSP](#) from gov.uk

Am I eligible for Employment and Support Allowance?

If you have an illness or disability that affects your ability to work, you may receive New-Style Employment and Support Allowance.

Employment and Support Allowance involves taking part in an assessment called the Work Capability Assessment. This assesses what you are able and not able to do according to set criteria using a points system.

Most people claiming New-Style Employment and Support Allowance may be expected to take steps to prepare for work, including attending work focused interviews with their Jobcentre work coach. Those with a higher level of ill health will not be expected to do this, may go into the 'support group' and get extra amount called the 'support component'.

How Employment and Support Allowance works

Employment and Support Allowance consists of two phases:

- **Assessment Phase:** This is the first 13 weeks of your claim while you wait for a decision to be made on your capability for work. Employment and Support Allowance is paid at a basic rate.
- **Main Phase:** This starts from week 14 of your claim if the Work Capability Assessment shows that your illness or disability does limit your ability to work. In other words, you have scored 15

points. A support component may be paid on top of the basic rate of Employment and Support Allowance if you have greater disability or ill health. You can be 'treated as' satisfying the 15 points or the support group criteria in certain circumstances such as being found fit for work would lead to a serious risk to your health.

For further information, including how to apply and the current rates, visit [Employment and Support Allowance on Gov.UK](#).

End of Life

The Social Security (Special Rules for End of Life) Bill means that people considered by a clinician as having 12 months or less to live can have fast-tracked access to this benefit. The extended fast-track access means those eligible are not subject to a face-to-face assessment, or waiting period, with the majority of individuals receiving the highest rate of those benefits.

Where can I get benefits advice?

You can get benefits advice from a local independent service. They can help guide you through the application process and explain how some benefits may impact upon another:

- [Citizens Advice Newcastle \(CAN\)](#).
- [Newcastle Welfare Rights Service](#) have [self help material](#) on their website
- [Search Newcastle](#) give benefits advice to older people in the West of Newcastle
- [Disability North](#) give disability related benefit advice, help with appeals and representation at tribunals

Search for Benefits advice organisations

Location:

Postcode:

Other useful information

- [Employment and Support Allowance – Gov.UK page](#)
- [Money Advice Service](#) provides online information on the full range of benefits that you may be entitled to. This also includes where to find more help and advice.
- The [Payment Exception Service](#) is for those without a bank account to pay state benefits and Pension credit. Information Now has more details on the service available to those unable to use bank accounts.

- You may be eligible for free NHS prescriptions if you receive Income Support; Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance; Income-related Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit. Use the [NHS BSA eligibility checker](#).
- [NHS Healthy Start Scheme](#) is for people who are more than 10 weeks pregnant, or have children under the age of 4, who receive certain benefits. You get a free prepaid card that's topped up every 4 weeks to buy: milk, fruit and vegetables. You can also collect free vitamins from [locations listed here](#). You can use the card in shops that accept Mastercard payments and sell at least one of these Healthy Start foods.
- You can apply for a [Budgeting Loan](#) to help with a single expense if you are eligible and get a qualifying benefit such as income related ESA..

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Useful Organisations

Citizens Advice Newcastle (CAN)

Email: citycab@newcastlecab.org.uk

Website: <http://citizensadvice-newcastle.org.uk>

Telephone: 0808 223 1133

Address: 4th Floor, City Library, NE1 8AX

Newcastle Welfare Rights Service

Email: welfare.rights@newcastle.gov.uk

Website: www.newcastle.gov.uk/welfarerights

Telephone: 0191 277 2627

Address: **POSTAL ADDRESS ONLY - No face-to-face advice is given here, NE7 7LX

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions>

Telephone: 0191 277 2627

Money Helper

Email: pensions.enquiries@moneyhelper.org.uk

Website: <https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en>

Telephone: 0191 277 2627

Address: Holborn Centre, EC1N 2TD

Turn2us

Email: info@turn2us.org.uk

Website: www.turn2us.org.uk

Telephone: 0191 277 2627

Address: Unit 9, CF15 7QQ

Disability North

Email: reception@disabilitynorth.org.uk

Website: www.disabilitynorth.org.uk

Telephone: 0191 2840480

Address: The Dene Centre, NE3 1PH

Encephalitis Society

Email: comms@encephalitis.info

Website: <https://www.encephalitis.info/>

Telephone: 01653 692 583

Address: 32 Castlegate, YO17 7DT

Healthy Start Scheme

Email: healthy.start@nhsbsa.nhs.uk

Website: <https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk>

Telephone: 01653 692 583

Address: Healthy Start, NE1 6SN

Newcastle City Council Community Hubs

Email: council.housing@newcastle.gov.uk

Website: www.newcastle.gov.uk/housing

Telephone: 0191 278 8600

Address: Newcastle City Council, NE1 8QH

Related Articles

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[Jobseeker's Allowance \(JSA\)](#)

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