

Financial advice and assistance

Information for patients, parents and guardians

If your child has a disability or long-term health condition, or if you are on a low income, you may be entitled to certain benefits and grants. We've written this factsheet to give you more information about the local and national organisations that can offer financial support and advice.

Turn2us

Turn2us is a national charity that helps people in financial need gain access to welfare benefits, charitable grants and other financial help. You can use their benefits calculator to find out which welfare benefits you may be entitled to and their grant search to find out what charitable funds you may be eligible for.

Website: www.turn2us.org.uk

Entitledto

Entitledto offers benefit entitlement advice, financial advice and a helpful tool to help you budget.

Website: www.entitledto.co.uk

Family Fund

Family Fund is the UK's largest charity providing grants for families who are on income related benefits and raising a disabled or seriously ill child (aged up to 17 years old).

Applications for a Family Fund grant must be made by the parent or carer of the disabled or seriously ill child, but professionals can support you to complete the application.

Website: www.familyfund.org.uk

Contact

Contact is a charity that provides advice on education, benefits and finances, childcare, social care and medical information for families with disabled children.

Website: www.contact.org.uk/advice-and-support/benefits-financial-help/benefits-and-tax-credits

Food banks

The Trussell Trust supports a nationwide network of food banks across the UK to provide emergency food and support to those in need. To find out where your local food bank is, please visit their website.

Website: www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/find-a-foodbank

In order to get help from a food bank, you will need to be referred with a voucher. These can be issued by a number of local community organisations, such as schools, GPs and advice agencies.

Alternatively, you can search the internet for local food banks.

Southampton City Mission (SCM)

SCM Basis Banks offer food, clothes and baby equipment to those in need in Southampton.

Website: www.southamptoncitymission.co.uk/basics-banks

Free school meals

Check to see if your child can get free school meals in England and find out how to apply on your local authority's website.

Website: www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals

Energy bills

Citizens Advice provides information on certain benefits, grants and help offered by the government and energy suppliers to help with household bills, such as:

- winter fuel payment
- cold weather payments
- warm home discount scheme
- grants to help pay off energy debts
- water rates cap

Website: www.citizensadvice.org.uk

For a translation of this document, or a version in another format such as easy read, large print, Braille or audio, please telephone **023 8120 4688**.

For help preparing for your visit, arranging an interpreter or accessing the hospital please visit **www.uhs.nhs.uk/additionalneeds**

www.uhs.nhs.uk/childrenshospital

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