



Benefits Advice Agencies - Bedfordshire

This list provides details of a selected range of agencies that provide advice on benefits and/or debt management for patients and carers. It includes some national services followed by details of agencies in the part of Bedfordshire covered by the Mount Vernon Cancer Network. As details can change it is advisable to telephone or check the website before visiting. At the end is a note on help with travel costs. Please note that if you are a patient with cancer, your illness can be classified as a disability under the Equality Act 2010. The Equality Act aims to end the discrimination and prejudice which many disabled people and people with long term health conditions face in their everyday lives.

National Services

Agency	Contact Details	Notes
GENERAL ADVICE Citizens Advice	www.adviceguide.org.uk Tel: 08444 111444 Mon-Fri: 10.00-16.00	Online independent advice See area lists for details of local CAB offices
DIRECTGOV	www.direct.gov.uk	Government guide to all public services including benefits, disability rights, support for carers.
DEBT ADVICE	Payplan Ltd Kempton House Dysart Road Grantham, Lincs NG31 7LE 0800 280 2816 www.payplan.com	Immediate debt advice Mon-Fri: 08.30-21.00 Sat: 09.00-15.00
BENEFIT ENQUIRY LINE	2nd Floor, Red Rose House Lancaster Road, Preston Lancashire, PR1 1HB Benefit enquiry lines: 0800 882 200 (for advice on benefits for disabled people, Carers Allowance, bereavement benefits and Industrial Injuries Benefit) 0800 055 6688 (to claim Employment and Support Allowance, Jobseekers Allowance and Income Support) BEL-Customer-Services@dwp.gsi.gov.uk www.direct.gov.uk	Advice and information for ill and disabled people and carers on the range of benefits available. Mon-Fri: 08.30-18.30 Sat: 09.00-13.00 Mon-Fri: 08.00-18.00
BENEFIT CHECKER For Disability Benefits seek advice from a Benefits Advisor	Helpline: 0808 802 2000 www.entitledto.co.uk	A service which helps people access the money available to them. Helpline hours: Mon-Fri 08.00-20.00
MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT	89 Albert Embankment London SE1 7UQ Tel: 020 7840 7840 Fax: 020 7840 7841 Helpline: 0808 808 0000 www.macmillan.org.uk	Find out what benefits are available to you. Mon-Fri: 09.00-20.00
EMPLOYMENT ADVICE ACAS: Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service	Acas National (Head Office) Euston Tower 286 Euston Road London NW1 3JJ Helpline: 0845 747 4747 www.acas.org.uk	Clear, confidential, independent and impartial advice to assist the caller in resolving issues in the workplace. Mon-Fri: 08.00-20.00 Sat: 09.00-13.00

Contacts for Benefits Advice in the Mount Vernon Areas: Bedfordshire

Agency	Contact Details	Notes
BEDFORD Citizens Advice Bureau	7a St Paul's Square, Bedford, Bedfordshire MK40 1SQ Tel: 01234 354384 www.bedfordcab.org.uk	
BEDFORDSHIRE Age Concern	78-82 Bromham Road, Bedford, Bedfordshire MK40 2QH Tel: 01234 360510 www.ageconcernbeds.com	
BEDFORDSHIRE Macmillan Welfare Rights Service	County Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford, Bedfordshire MK42 9AP Tel: 01234 276 948 Fax: 01234 228 622 macmillanwrs@bedscc.gov.uk	Free, confidential benefits advice to people living with cancer, their families and carers. Administrator receives & processes all referrals, & arranges home visits and outreach clinic appointments with clients.
DUNSTABLE Citizens Advice Bureau	Grove House, 76 High Street North, Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU6 1NF Tel: 01582 661384 www.dunstablecab.org.uk	
LEIGHTON-LINSLADE Citizens Advice Bureau	Bossard House, West Street Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 1DA Tel: 01525 373878 www.leightonlinsladecab.org.uk	
LUTON Citizens Advice Bureau	24-26 King Street, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 2DP Tel: 01582 731 616 Fax: 01582 487705 www.lutoncab.org.uk	
LUTON Law Centre	6th Floor, Cresta House, Alma Street, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 2PL Advice line: 01582 481 000 Fax: 01582 482 581 Email: admin@lutonlawcentre.org.uk	Law Centres provide an independent specialist legal advice, assistance and representation service on a range of matters including obtaining the correct benefits.
LUTON RIGHTS	15 New Bedford Road, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 1SA Tel: 01582 453372 Fax: 01582 451344 www.lutonrights.org	Free and confidential advice on welfare benefits. This is an appointments only service. A home visit may be possible if you are unable to get to the Centre.
MID-BEDFORDSHIRE (AMPTHILL) Citizens Advice Bureau	The Court House, Woburn Street Ampt Hill, Bedfordshire MK45 2HX Tel: 01525 402742 www.midbedscab.org.uk	
MID-BEDFORDSHIRE (BIGGLESWADE) Citizens Advice Bureau	Century House, Market Square Biggleswade, Bedfordshire SG18 8UU Tel: 01767 601368 www.midbedscab.org.uk	

Help with Travel Costs

<p>MOUNT VERNON HOSPITAL</p> <p>Help with travel costs</p>	<p>If you are on a low income, you may be entitled to reclaim your travel expenses. You will need to show proof that you are receiving benefits, such as income support or tax credits, and proof of your travel costs such as a receipt or ticket. You will need to take this paperwork to Patient Affairs in the Main Building of the hospital.</p> <p>Hospital transport must be authorised by your consultant. For more information please see our Helpful Hint no. 265 - Hospital Transport Services.</p>
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