

Brain CARE in Focus

Issue 3



@hctbraincare

Tel: 01727 732038

email: hct.braincare@nhs.net

Welcome to the third edition of the
HCT Macmillan Brain CARE Team
Newsletter!

Benefits and Financial Support:

Benefits are payments from the government to people who need financial help. When you are affected by cancer you may need access to benefits to help with extra costs if you have to stop working. In this edition of **Brain CARE in Focus** we aim to provide information on some of the benefits and financial support available and how you can access the advice and support you might need.

GOV.UK

The [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website provides information on disability-related financial support including benefits, tax credits, payments, grants and concessions. If you are age 16-64 you will be eligible for Personal Independence Payment, and if you are over 65 you will be eligible for Attendance Allowance. These benefits are not means tested. You may also be entitled to other benefits.

Carers:

You may qualify for a [Carer's Allowance](https://www.gov.uk) if you care for someone at least 35 hours per week.
[Carers UK](https://www.gov.uk) and [Carers Trust](https://www.gov.uk) also provide information on financial support for Carers.

Hertfordshire Macmillan Benefits Advice Service

Macmillan Cancer Support is working with Hertfordshire County Council to offer benefits information, advice and support for people affected by cancer.

They can help with claims for benefits like the personal independence payment, attendance allowance, ESA, universal credit and carer's allowance. They can help challenge decisions, from mandatory reconsideration through to appeal.

Tel: 01438 843456 or [click here](#) for further information.

Useful information and support

Macmillan Brain CARE Team

We are a team of specialist therapists (Allied Health Professionals) working in Hertfordshire.



We support the rehabilitation needs of people living with brain cancer.

Macmillan Cancer Support:

Offer a:

'[Financial Support Tool](#)' designed to help you make some of the financial decisions you may face if diagnosed with cancer.

Macmillan also offer a number of financial support guides to help with money worries.

Download the **Money Worries** leaflet [here](#)

Help with Transport and Parking:

Travelling to and from hospital can be expensive. Help is available to assist with travel/transport and parking costs which can build up with frequent visits to hospital for clinics and treatment. Macmillan provide advice on support available and how to access the help you might need:

[Travel/Transport & Parking](#)

Council Tax Reduction Scheme:

Local Council Tax Reduction Schemes can help with the cost of your council tax if you are on a low income due to long term illness. In some areas, councils also have schemes where they choose to offer extra support with council tax. These are sometimes called discretionary funds for council tax. In these areas it may be possible to get an extra payment to help with your council tax, in addition to the normal council tax reduction scheme. These discretionary schemes have different names in different areas.

Each Council has it's own reduction scheme. To find out more, contact your local council:

[Apply for local council tax discount](#)

Support with Bills and Housing costs:

Access to support for housing costs including rent, mortgage interest, council tax and home adaptations may be available for people who are entitled to certain benefits. To find out more please see information available on the Macmillan website:

[Support with Bills and Housing costs](#)

Hertfordshire County Council (HCC)

HCC provide information and advice on how to stay safe and independent in your own home with services to make it easier for people with a disability or long time illness living in Hertfordshire including:

- [Equipment](#)
- [Making changes to your home](#)
- [Care at Home](#)
- [Meals on Wheels](#)
- [Monitors and alarms at home](#)

If you are unsure what equipment you need, call Herts Help on: 0300 123 4044 or visit the website: www.hertshelp.net

[The Brain Tumour Charity:](#)

Offer a **Benefits and Money Clinic** which helps people affected by a brain tumour access the financial support they are entitled to as well as advice on how to make the most of their money. Telephone appointments are available Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9.30am to 4pm— more information below:

[Benefits & Money Clinic](#)

[brainstrust:](#)

Offer a **Money Matters** page on their website which advises on how to be prepared if you need additional financial support including:

- Benefits and finance
- Travel Insurance
- Finance help with medication

[Click here to find out more](#)

Support with Health costs:

Financial support with health costs is possible for people living with cancer. It can include support with prescriptions, dental examinations and treatment, eye treatment, wigs and fabric supports. Further information is available through Macmillan—here:

[Support with Health costs](#)

Herts Help



Is a network of community organisations in Hertfordshire working together. **Herts Help** provide the advice and support needed to work out the best way to pay for care including:

- > care assessments and planning
- > brokerage services
- > if you qualify for local authority support
- > deferred payments linked to the value of your home
- > benefits advice
- > debt counselling
- > gaining intendant financial advice and financial planning

Tel: 0300 123 4044

Email: info@hertshelp.net

Hertfordshire Warmer Home Scheme



You could be entitled to free or discounted home energy improvements.

The Hertfordshire Warmer Homes Scheme could help if you are on a low income or receiving certain benefits.

Hertfordshire Warmer Homes scheme is run in partnership with Hertfordshire County Council and district and borough councils in Hertfordshire.

Further information and advice is available through: **Herts Help**

[Click here for contact details and to access the Warmer Homes Scheme application form.](#)

[Carers UK:](#)

Offer advice and support to access the 'Carer's Allowance' which is the main benefit for carers. They also provide information on:

- Health Costs
- Household Finances
- Pensions
- NHS Continuous Healthcare

The **Carers Allowance Factsheet** is available to download [here](#)

Macmillan Brain CARE Team - Service Update:

Financial concerns are listed as one of the biggest worries for people living with brain tumours. We hope the information in this newsletter can direct you to some services that can assist you with your financial position, as well as informing you of what you may be entitled to.

Filling in the forms can be daunting, so if you are finding it difficult then let us know and we will refer you to the Hertfordshire Macmillan Benefits Service who will be able to help you with the application process.

The team have been working in Hertfordshire for over a year now, and we have supported over 100 people living with high grade brain tumours to get advice, support and therapy.

Many of you will be aware that we are a pilot service, with the aim of supporting people, but also proving there is a need for a key-worker to help people living with brain tumours.

In 2020 we will be looking to build a business case to get the service fully commissioned. We will need your support to do this. If you feel able to share your experiences of the team then please let us know and we will get in touch to arrange this.

Please remember to get in touch with any questions, concerns or support needs you have, and we wish you all a relaxing time over the festive season.

Kind regards,

Alison, Lesley and Lucy



The Macmillan Brain CARE Team welcomes your involvement. If you would like to share your experience of living with a brain tumour and help shape the service we offer, please get in touch:

The Macmillan Brain CARE Team:

Tel: 01727 732038

Email:

hct.braincare@nhs.net

Twitter: @hctbraincare

Would you like the team to contact you so you can share your experiences with us:

[Yes](#)

[No](#)