Incentives for Personal Assistants

Overview

Personal Assistants working in social care can have access to various incentives that offer the Personal Assistant numerous benefits. This factsheet explores the Blue Sky Card, the Blue Light Card, and the ILGPA Card, including their costs and benefits.

Blue Sky Card

Cost: £5 annually.

Benefits: Acts as an employee/carer/Personal Assistant ID card with national and local discounts. Additional perks include free Human Resource telephone support for employers (Please note, all employers should be entitled to support from the legal helpline from their insurance provider if the correct policy has been purchased) and recognition as key workers.

Eligibility: Available to paid carers and unpaid carers, support workers, Personal Assistants, care agency workers, care home workers, and self-employed carers.

How to Apply: Applications can be made online with required ID and proof of eligibility.

Website and contact information: -

Website: www.blueskycard.uk
Email: info@blueskycard.uk
Phone: 0333 034 1101

Blue Light Card

Cost: £4.99 for two years.

Benefits: Provides access to discounts across various sectors, including retail, holidays, insurance, phones, and more. It is specifically designed for emergency services, NHS, and social care workers.

Eligibility: Available to those in emergency services, NHS, social care sector, this can include Personal Assistants. It should be noted that sometimes a Personal Assistant's eligibility is rejected and no refund can be issued in this circumstance.

How to Apply: Application is through the Blue Light Card website with appropriate verification of employment in the eligible sectors, it is strongly recommended that employers and Personal Assistants carefully review the application process before applying for a Blue Light Card.

Website and contact information: -

Website: www.bluelightcard.co.uk
Email: contact@bluelightcard.co.uk

ILGPA Card

Cost: £20 annually for employed Personal Assistants; £120 annually for self-employed Personal Assistants.

Benefits: ILG PA (for employed Personal Assistants) is an Employee Assistance Programme designed for employed Personal Assistants. Members are issued with a personalised ID badge and lanyard and have access to legal advice; well-being help and counselling support.

For self-employed Personal Assistants ILG PA is an aid to support Personal Assistants with the running of their own business. Currently there is no card issued for this membership, nor will the self-employed Personal Assistant have access to an Employee Assistance Programme.

Eligibility: Personal Assistants employed through a Direct Payments or self-employed Personal Assistant.

How to Apply: Applications are processed via the ILGPA website, requiring proof of employment or self-employment in the social / health care sector.

Website and contact information: -

Website: www.ilg-pa.com
Email: hello@ilg-pa.com

Can I use my Direct Payment to purchase an incentive card for my Personal Assistant?

If you are in receipt of a Direct Payment, it is strongly advised you only purchase one incentive card option for your Personal Assistant/s. This limitation ensures proper management and utilisation of Direct Payment funds, encouraging employers to select the most suitable incentive card based on your Personal Assistant/s needs and preferences. Should you choose to purchase any additional incentive programme / card/s, you may have to do this by utilising personal funds.

It is advisable to only purchase an incentive card for Personal Assistants who have six months or more of employment.

Being in receipt of an incentive programme / card also provides another layer of verification to the Personal Assistant around their role.

Summary

Blue Sky Card: £5 per year, ideal for general social / health care workers seeking broad recognition and discounts.

Blue Light Card: £4.99 every two years, suited for those in emergency services and social care / NHS-related roles seeking extensive discounts.

ILGPA Card: £20 per year for employed Personal Assistants, £120 per year for self-employed, focused on independent living and direct payment scenarios. The ILGPA card is seen as an Employee Assistance Programme. ILG PA members can register for a Blue Light Card which is a discount card, there maybe an additional cost for registration.

For self-employed Personal Assistants ILG PA is an aid to support Personal Assistants with the running of their own business. Currently there is no card issued for this membership, nor will the self-employed Personal Assistant have access to an Employee Assistance Programme.

Remember selecting the right card depends on the specific needs and employment context of the Personal Assistant, ensuring they receive the best possible support and recognition for their vital role in social care.

It is advisable to only purchase an incentive card for Personal Assistants who have six months or more of employment.

The Direct Payment Support Service hope you have found this information sheet useful.

The Direct Payment Support Service is available Monday to Friday from 9am until 5pm using the telephone number and email address below and on the first page of the information sheet. Any emails that are received will receive a reply within three working days.

The Direct Payment Support Service contact details: -

Tel: 0370 779 1300

Email: dpsupportservice@hants.gov.uk

The Direct Payment Support Service has further information sheets on various topics, including:

- Introduction to Direct Payments
- Information on Advocacy
- Acting as an Authorised / Nominated person
- Introduction to PPL Virtual Wallet
- Information on Insurance providers
- Information on Payroll providers
- Introduction to employing a Personal Assistant
- Guide to employing your own Personal Assistant
    - Including interview question templates and job advertisement templates
- Ending a Direct Payment