



An occasional newsletter from Age UK Thurrock giving information which may be of interest to older people.

Many older people receive Attendance Allowance. This is a weekly payment awarded to those with a disability that affects their day to day life, giving them an extra income to help them to cope with the higher living costs they face, thus giving them more freedom and independence.

Why is Attendance Allowance under threat?

Like other disability benefits Attendance Allowance is managed nationally by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). But the Government now has a proposal to pass responsibility for Attendance Allowance to local councils. Owing to the many pressures on local council budgets this could well lead to a postcode lottery of support for older disabled people and put the future of the benefit under threat.

How can you help?

Age UK believe that there is still time to change the Government's mind and have written an open letter to the ministers who will be making the final decision. They need as many people as possible to sign the letter and to support the campaign. You can find the letter on their website www.ageuk.org.uk

SMART METERS - Every home in England, Scotland and Wales will be offered a smart meter by their energy provider, at no extra cost between now and 2020. This meter will allow you keep track of your energy usage and mean that you will no longer have to have your meter read.

When the meter is installed you will receive an in-home display, which shows exactly how much energy you are using, as you use it and what it is costing you in pounds and pence.

Your energy supplier will contact you when your smart meter is ready for installation.