

Delivery of devolved Social Security benefits Stakeholder Toolkit

Revised Version – December 2019



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PURPOSE

This stakeholder toolkit is designed for all public, third sector and charitable organisations who are involved in the delivery of, or providing advice on, the new social security benefits which are being devolved to the Scottish Government under the Scotland Act 2016. These include a range of powers over disability, carers and benefits for those on low incomes, as well as powers to make administrative changes to Universal Credit and vary the housing costs element.

The toolkit has been produced by the Scottish Government and provides resources and information to help you to communicate with your staff and clients about the significant changes happening in the field of social security in Scotland.

You can use the information and facts in this toolkit on your organisation's intranet to inform your employees about the changes. You could also use it on your external website, newsletters and social media to let your clients and local partners know about the new social security benefits being introduced and how they might affect them.

OVERVIEW: DELIVERY OF DEVOLVED BENEFITS

What has happened so far?

The Social Security (Scotland) Act received Royal Assent in June 2018. Since then, the Scottish Government has:

- Established Social Security Experience Panels – 2,400 people with lived experience of the social security system who provide advice and guidance on the design and delivery of the new social security benefits.
- Established Social Security Scotland with its Head Office in Dundee, and an office in Glasgow, and have started recruitment for its local presence across the country.
- Introduced a new Carer's Allowance Supplement, supporting more than 91,000 carers across Scotland with an additional £442 a year in people's pockets in 2018/19, to be up-rated annually in line with inflation, rising up to £452.40 in 2019/20. This means that in 2019/20 annual investment in carers will rise to around £37 million.
- Launched the Best Start Pregnancy and Baby Payment, which supports low income families at key stages in the life of a child. Successful applicants receive payments of £600 for their first child, £300 for subsequent children and an additional £300 for multiple births.
- Launched the Best Start Grant Early Learning Payment, a £250 payment that helps low income families around the time a child would normally start nursery.
- Launched the Best Start Grant School Age Payment, a £250 payment that helps low income families around the time a child starts school.
- Launched Best Start Foods on 12 August 2019. Paper vouchers have been replaced by a Payment Card giving eligible low income families more choice and flexibility to buy healthy food.
- In the first ten months, over 61,000 families received £17.8 million in Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods payments.

- Launched the Social Security Charter – co-produced by those who rely on social security, setting standards for service that will form part of everything the Scottish Government does.
- Launched the Funeral Support Payment on 16 September 2019, replacing DWP Funeral Payment in Scotland. It provides a one-off payment to support people on low income benefits with a contribution towards funeral costs
- Launched the Young Carer Grant on 21 October 2019. The grant is a £300 annual payment for carers aged 16-18 caring for someone in receipt of specified disability benefits for 16 or more hours each week on average, who are not currently in receipt of Carers Allowance.
- Published the first Benefit Take-up Strategy on 21 October 2019 under the provision of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018. The strategy sets out Scottish Ministers' work supporting benefit take-up to date. It also introduced a series of new activities and initiatives aimed at increasing awareness of and access to Scottish benefits and supporting those who are eligible to apply. These included a Scottish Benefit Take-up Fund, an Income Maximisation Fund, establishing a Take-up Stakeholder Reference Group and developing a Take-up Stakeholder Toolkit.

What's next?

The Scottish Government has committed to introducing a Job Start Payment for young people aged 16-24 (inclusive), who have been out of paid employment for six months or more.

The Job Start Payment will be launched in Spring 2020 and comprise a one-off cash payment of either £250 or £400, the higher amount being payable to young people who have children.

The Job Start Payment will provide additional support to care leavers, as long as they are on a qualifying benefit, without having to meet the requirement to have been out of paid work for 6 months. They will also be eligible for a year longer (until their 26th birthday).

On 1 April 2020, the Scottish Government will take full responsibility - both payment and policy - for the remaining devolved benefits.

This means that both the UK and Scottish Governments will, for the first time, share clients and those eligible for benefits on the grounds of disability and ill health will get payments from both the DWP and Social Security Scotland. Those payments need to interact with one another, so both agencies' systems need to work together seamlessly, to ensure people get the right money at the right time.

Case transfer of clients from the DWP to Social Security Scotland will start in 2020 after Disability Assistance for Children and Young People is delivered.

The Scottish Government delivery plans are based on three principles:

- Protecting people and their entitlements;
- Acting quickly to reform aspects of the current system which research shows cause most stress; and
- Ensuring that it puts in place a dignified, respectful system, from application to appeal, that works for the people of Scotland.

The roll out of devolved benefits will start with the three forms of Disability Assistance, then move to Carer's Assistance and the other devolved benefits.

To protect eligible people's rights and ensure that they are involved in the decisions affecting them. The Scottish Government will ensure that advocacy support is provided to disabled people who require it. This will mean that an independent advocacy worker can help someone make a claim from Social Security Scotland. There are also provisions in the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 for Ministers to set advocacy service standards.

These standards are designed to help ensure high quality, consistent services across Scotland. Our consultation recently closed and the responses are being reviewed. Advocacy is an important additional assistance we can give that's not currently available in the UK system, and The Scottish Government are working to ensure that this support is in place by summer 2020. This is a key part of delivering our system based on dignity, fairness and respect.

The Scottish Government has announced it will introduce a new benefit for low income families to reduce levels of child poverty in Scotland. Early payments of Scottish Child Payment will be made to eligible families with children under the age of 6 by Christmas 2020 and for children aged under 16 by the end of 2022. It will be administered by Social Security Scotland.

By early 2022, the Scottish Government will be delivering new claims for Disability and Carer's Assistance, and supporting families with their winter fuel bills.

The Scottish Government will transfer more than half a million client cases from the DWP to Social Security Scotland (around 10% of the total population). People have been transferred from one benefit to another before, but not transferred from one government agency to another.

The Scottish Government is clear that this must be done in a way which causes minimal stress, while safeguarding the payments people are currently getting.

Therefore at the point when the case transfer begins:

- Payments will be protected;
- The Scottish Government will not require anyone to make a new claim - as is the case with migration to Universal Credit; and
- No-one will be reassessed - as is the case for the majority moved from Disability Living Allowance to Personal Independence Payment.

With the DWP's co-operation, the Scottish Government expects the majority of people to be transferred by 2024, and all cases fully transferred in 2025.

DELIVERY TIMETABLE

What is happening next and when?

Due to the impact on the Scottish Government, Social Security Scotland and all of our public services of managing Scotland through the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic, we have had to take the extremely difficult decision to delay the launch of Scottish Disability Assistance. The Department for Work and Pensions will deliver disability benefits on behalf of Scottish Ministers for existing and new Scottish clients over a longer transition period in order to ensure people continue to get the financial support they are entitled to. We are currently undertaking a Programme-wide re-planning process to determine a firm delivery timetable for the benefits that have not yet transferred. The dates listed as 'TBC' will be updated to reflect the new delivery dates when they are available.

| When | What |
|----------------|---|
| Summer 2020 | Job Start Payment |
| Summer 2020 | Independent social security advocacy support will be available. |
| TBC | Child Disability Payment will open to new claims (replaces Disability Living Allowance for children). |
| TBC | Eligibility for Child Disability Payment extended from age 16 to age 18. |
| Christmas 2020 | Scottish Child Payment (under 6s) |
| By end 2020 | Children who receive the highest care component of Disability Assistance become entitled to Winter Heating Assistance (16,000 children; £200 payment). |
| TBC | Adult Disability Payment will open to new claims (replaces UK Government's Personal Independence Payment). |
| TBC | Start new additional payment for carers who look after more than one disabled child. |
| TBC | Pension Age Disability Payment (over 65) will open to new claims (replaces Attendance Allowance). |
| TBC | Winter Heating Assistance and Cold Spell Heating Assistance delivered to eligible recipients in their current form and to those in receipt of assistance from Social Security Scotland. |
| TBC | Scottish Carer's Allowance opens to new claims |
| TBC | Employment Injury Assistance |
| TBC | Scottish Child Payment (all children under 16) |

FACTSHEETS:

Background

Background

The Cabinet Secretary for Social Security and Older People made a statement on 28 February 2019 to the Scottish Parliament on the timetable for the remaining devolved benefits to be delivered. You can read it [here](#).

On 26 June 2019, the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government announced the Scottish Government will introduce a new benefit for low income families to reduce levels of child poverty in Scotland called the Scottish Child Payment. You can read it [here](#).

An updated Scottish Child Payment position paper was published on 4 October 2019 which sets out policy developments which had been undertaken alongside continued work on service design and delivery. You can read it [here](#).

The Scottish Government has published a [full suite of position papers](#) on various matters relating to the development of the devolved social security benefits in Scotland. The following pages provide key factsheets for each paper and, for completion, factsheets on what has happened so far and plans for 2020.

FACTSHEET 1:

What has happened so far

- The Scotland Act 2016 devolved a number of benefits to the Scottish Parliament, including a range of powers relating to assistance for disabled persons and carers, as well as powers to make administrative changes to Universal Credit and vary the housing costs element.
- In July 2016, the Scottish Government launched a consultation on social security. 521 responses were received.
- An outline business case for the establishment of a new social security agency, with a local presence providing face to face advice, and a central administrative function, was published on 27 April 2017. Social Security Scotland was formally established in September 2018.
- The Social Security Bill began its journey through the Scottish Parliament on 20 June 2017 and was passed unanimously on 25 April 2018.
- The Scottish Government set up Social Security Experience Panels – 2,400 people with lived experience of the social security system who provide advice and guidance on the design and delivery of the new social security benefits.
- The first use of the Scotland Act 2016 powers was the introduction of Universal Credit Scottish Choices on 4 October 2017, giving people in Scotland the choice of being paid Universal Credit twice a month rather than monthly, and having their Universal Credit housing element paid direct to their landlord.
- The first benefit delivered by Social Security Scotland was Carer's Allowance Supplement, which has put an extra £442 into the pockets of more than 91,000 carers, an investment of over £33 million in 2018/19. This is to be up-rated annually in line with inflation rising up to £452.40 in 2019/20. This increases to an annual investment to around £37 million in 2019/20.

- Best Start Grant Pregnancy and Baby Payment, Best Start Grant Early Learning Payment and the Best Start Grant School Age Payment have all been launched. By 30 September 2019, £17.8 million was paid to more than 61,000 families.
- Best Start Foods replaces Healthy Start Vouchers in Scotland. Payment cards have replaced paper vouchers giving eligible low income families more choice and flexibility to buy healthy food
- There was an announcement by the Scottish Government in September 2018 that there will be no private sector involvement in assessments for disability support. Assessments for disability support will be carried out by Social Security Scotland, fully supported by public sector healthcare professionals – and people will be given greater choice and flexibility over their assessments.
- The Social Security Charter received unanimous Parliamentary approval on 6 February 2019. It was co-produced by people with lived experience of social security. It outlines in detail what can be expected from the Scottish Government and Social Security Scotland for anyone accessing Scotland's new social security system.
- On 28 February 2019, the Cabinet Secretary for Social Security and Older People made a statement in the Scottish Parliament that on 1 April (2020), the Scottish Government will take full responsibility - both payment and policy - for the remaining devolved benefits.
- On 26 June 2019, the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government announced the Scottish Government will introduce a new benefit for low income families to reduce levels of child poverty in Scotland called the Scottish Child Payment. The payment will become available to eligible children under 6 by Christmas 2020, and will be fully rolled out to eligible children under 16 by the end of 2022.
- Funeral Support Payment launched on 16 September 2019, replacing the Social Fund Funeral Expenses Payment, in Scotland. It provides a one-off payment to support people on low income benefits with a contribution towards funeral costs

- Young Carer Grant was launched on 21 October 2019. The new grant is a £300 annual payment for carers aged 16-18 caring for someone in receipt of specified disability benefits for 16 or more hours each week on average, who are not currently in receipt of Carers Allowance.
- Benefit Take-up Strategy was [published](#) on 21 October 2019 under the provision of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018. The strategy sets out Scottish Ministers' work supporting benefit take-up to date. It also introduced a series of new activities and initiatives aimed at increasing awareness of and access to Scottish benefits and supporting those who are eligible to apply. These included a Scottish Benefit Take-up Fund, an Income Maximisation Fund, establishing a Take-up Stakeholder Reference Group and developing a Take-up Stakeholder Toolkit.

FACTSHEET 2:

Plans for 2020

- During 2020, the Scottish Government will deliver **four** new benefits. This is in addition to continuing to deliver the Carer's Allowance Supplement, Funeral Support Payment, Young Carers Grant, Best Start Foods and the three payments that make up the Best Start Grant package. This will bring the number of live benefits to eleven by the end of 2020.

The new benefits being delivered are:

- **Job Start Payment** will be launched Spring 2020. The payment will comprise of a one-off cash payment of either £250 or £400, the higher amount being payable to young people who have children.
- **Scottish Child Payment for under 6s** will be launched by Christmas 2020. The Scottish Child Payment will be delivered by Social Security Scotland, paying £10 per week, per child, to families in receipt of qualifying benefits.
- **Disability Assistance for Children and Young People** (replacement for Child Disability Living Allowance) will be delivered by Summer 2020.
- **Winter Heating Assistance** for those in receipt of the highest component of Disability Assistance for Children and Young People will be delivered by the end of 2020.
- Our delivery plans for 2020 onwards are set out in Factsheets 3 to 23.

FACTSHEET 3:

Delivery of disability and carers benefits

- The benefits currently being delivered by Social Security Scotland and the Job Start Payment, are mainly in the form of one-off or lump sum payments and grants.
- The delivery of the remaining devolved benefits i.e. carers and disability benefits from 2020 is more complex. This is because:
 - They involve regular payments to individuals, who will have an ongoing relationship with Social Security Scotland.
 - People's circumstances may well change during that relationship, requiring adjustments to their payments.
 - To establish whether someone is eligible for a disability or carer benefit is complex and will involve information gathering and more sophisticated decision-making.
 - Social Security Scotland will carry out face to face assessments when it is the only practical way to obtain information.
- The Scottish Government wants to introduce the devolved benefits in their Scottish form as quickly as it can - taking into account some key considerations:
 - Ensuring a safe and secure transition;
 - Allowing sufficient time between benefit launches; and
 - For each benefit, introducing a new claims service before we transfer existing claims from the DWP to Social Security Scotland.
- The Scottish Government believes the most sensible approach is to deliver new claims for the main disability benefits, in increasing order of complexity and size of caseload, and then to deliver Carer's Allowance in its Scottish form.
- The timetable for delivery is set out at page 8.

FACTSHEET 4:

Disability Assistance assessments

- The Scottish Government's approach to how decisions should be made about eligibility to Disability Assistance, and the nature of that process, continues to be informed by the Disability and Carers Benefits Expert Advisory Group and Experience Panels.
- The Scottish Government is creating a holistic, person centred approach to providing Disability Assistance to ensure the needs of individuals are met.
- Individuals will be provided with a choice of application channels including online, telephone, paper and in-person.
- Case Managers will gather information on an individual's behalf, where possible, to inform the decision making process. Various sources of information, suggested by the individual, will be accessed. Only in circumstances in which there is no other practicable way to make a decision about entitlement to Disability Assistance for Working Age People will an individual be required to attend a face to face assessment.
- The Scottish Government will provide suitably qualified staff to undertake assessments for people with conditions that may require more specialist knowledge. In addition, the Scottish Government will provide a proportion of assessors with additional training in the impact of mental health conditions and learning disabilities, to enable them to carry out face to face assessments of people with these conditions.
- When invited to attend a face to face assessment an appointment will be made for the individual at a location that suits them, taking into account where they live and their access needs.
- No one applying for Scottish Disability Assistance will be assessed by a private sector provider; all face to face assessments will be delivered by Social Security Scotland.
- Individuals will have a right to be accompanied to an assessment and to have that person participate. Social Security Scotland will also ensure access to advocacy support for disabled people.

- Individuals will routinely be provided with a copy of the report written by the assessor without having to request it. Assessments will be audio recorded as standard.
- The Scottish Government carried out a wide ranging public consultation on all of our proposals relating to Disability Assistance, which closed on 28 May 2019. The results are available [here](#).

FACTSHEET 5:

Disability Assistance awards and entitlements

- The principles being adopted by the Scottish Government for the duration of disability awards was informed by the Disability and Carer Benefits Expert Advisory Group and the Ill Health Reference Group.
- The Duration of Award Principles specify that all awards should be made on a rolling basis, with no set date for an award ending; and that there will be no auto-entitlement thus ensuring all decisions will be person-centred.
- The Principles also make it clear that Disability Assistance should not stop whilst an award review is being undertaken; that review dates will be set at a date that takes account of the likelihood of that person's needs changing; and that reviews will be light-touch and, as far as possible, minimise stress.
- The Disability Assistance regulations will include a requirement to set an Award Review date for each individual's award, and also provide a framework for awards to be made on a rolling basis.
- Under the Scottish Government's Principles moving into work will not be regarded as a change of circumstance.
- The Principles will also require Social Security Scotland to give a reason to individuals where their award is reviewed earlier than the date set, and to publish the numbers of cases where awards are reviewed earlier than the date set at initial decision.
- In cases where there is no likelihood of improvement there will be at least five years between Light-Touch reviews and awards will have a maximum period of 10 years between Light-Touch Reviews.

FACTSHEET 6:

Disability Assistance qualifying periods

- Disability Assistance in Scotland will be made up of three forms of assistance:
 - Disability Assistance for Children and Young People;
 - Disability Assistance for Working-Age People; and
 - Disability Assistance for Older People.
- Qualifying Period rules are time limits that ensure that people must have had, or be expected to have, a disability or long-term condition for a certain period of time to be eligible for Disability Assistance.
- As part of the Scottish Government's development of the new disability benefits it has carefully considered whether any of these qualifying periods should be changed. It concluded that these Qualifying Periods should not be changed for the following reasons:
 - Significant policy changes could impact on the fundamental purpose of Disability Assistance which is to target long-term conditions. Keeping eligibility targeted to those for whom Disability Assistance is intended would be a significant challenge with any reduction in the qualifying periods. If the qualifying periods are reduced this will extend eligibility to people with shorter term conditions, who may not have significant additional financial requirements associated with their condition as many disabled people have, but who are able to meet the immediate requirements of the disability assessment.
 - The challenges associated with identifying specific benefits or age groups for change.
 - Any change in policy that increases entitlement may incur additional costs and threaten eligibility for reserved passported benefits.
 - It would incur significant financial costs.

FACTSHEET 7:

Employment Injury Assistance

- The Industrial Injuries Benefit Scheme (UK Government) provides no-fault compensation for people who are disabled because of an accident at work, or who have one of certain prescribed diseases caused by their work. The main benefit in the scheme is Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (IIDB).
- The number of new cases has been on a general downward trend since 2002. Responses to the Scottish Government's 2016 Consultation on Social Security in Scotland demonstrated that there is little consensus on the scheme.
- It will be difficult to undertake significant reform of the scheme since key policies relating to the benefit remain reserved, for example, employment, insurance, occupational health and safety, and self-employment.
- While the scheme has a relatively low caseload in Scotland, it is likely to be one of the most complex to transition. Detailed information about current and previous scheme recipients is almost entirely held by the DWP in paper files in remote storage. Transferring these paper files and cases would require entirely new processes and an electronic system to be designed, built, tested and implemented.
- Industrial Injuries Advisory Council (IIAC) has a role in scrutinising Industrial Injury benefits regulations. The UK Government has decided that the role of IIAC should remain unchanged and that it should provide advice to UK Ministers only.
- In advance of transferring the scheme the Scottish Government will have to decide whether, and how, to provide a Scottish equivalent of IIAC. Securing the necessary expertise could be challenging.
- For the above reasons, IIDB will continue to be delivered by the DWP using an Agency Agreement until we begin delivering new claims in Autumn 2022. This allows the DWP to carry out functions on behalf of Scottish Ministers, and specifies what the DWP is being asked to do.

FACTSHEET 8:

Severe Disablement Allowance

- Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA) is a work-related benefit and designed to replace income lost due to someone being unable to work due to illness or disability. It has been closed to new applicants since 2001.
- In May 2018 around 2,000 individuals in Scotland received SDA, of which only 2% of these were under age 65.
- The equivalent benefit available now for people unable to work due to illness or disability is Employment Support Allowance (ESA), which is not being devolved to Scotland and is one of the benefits being replaced by Universal Credit.
- Of those who responded to questions on SDA in the Scottish Government's 2016 Consultation on Social Security in Scotland, 83% agreed with the Scottish Government's proposal to continue to deliver SDA without making any changes. Responses to a 2018 Experience Panels survey on SDA did not raise any significant issues.
- The Scottish Government believe that there is no benefit in transferring SDA, because:
 - There will be no new claims for SDA.
 - There is a small and declining caseload for SDA.
 - The Scottish Government is not proposing to make changes to the benefit and this proposal is largely supported by stakeholders and individuals.
 - The interaction with the State Pension could cause unnecessary confusion for clients.
 - Transferring the benefit may cause unnecessary disruption to some SDA clients.
- SDA will continue to be delivered by the DWP using an Agency Agreement. This allows the DWP to carry out functions on behalf of Scottish Ministers, and specifies what the DWP is being asked to do.

FACTSHEET 9:

Short-term assistance

- The Scottish Government will provide Short-Term Assistance (STA) where Social Security Scotland has made a decision to reduce or stop a continuing payment (such as disability, carer's and employment injury assistance), and that decision is subject to a request for re-determination or an appeal.
- The purpose of STA is to ensure an individual is not discouraged from challenging that decision by having to manage, for a period, with a reduced income.
- Provision for STA is set out in Section 36 of the Social Security (Scotland) Act (the 2018 Act), along with Schedule 10.
- STA is available for devolved assistance where on-going payments are made.
- STA cannot be used to support people whose reserved benefit is reduced or stopped. Similarly, people would not be able to access any passporting entitlements to the reserved system, or those that are not controlled by the Scottish Government in the devolved system during the period that STA is being paid.
- Where there is a successful appeal, an individual's entitlement record would be adjusted from the point at which it was reduced/stopped or from the point as decided by the tribunal, including passport benefits.
- STA can only be made available once the request for a re-determination or an appeal is made.
- STA will be available until the First-tier Tribunal (FtT) has made a determination.
- The Scottish Government undertook a consultation to inform the detailed design and operation of how STA will operate. This was part of the consultation on Disability Assistance and the results can be found [here](#).

FACTSHEET 10:

Social security case transfer

- Over 500,000 existing cases will be transferred from the DWP to Social Security Scotland (around 10% of the total population in Scotland). Our priority in the transfer of powers is a safe and secure transition. This will ensure that all those currently in receipt of benefits will not experience a disruption in their award.
- Case transfer for all existing in scope DWP cases is targeted to complete in 2025 with the majority being completed in 2024. The scope of transfers includes:
 - Adults aged 65 and over, and people in receipt of Disability Living Allowance for children;
 - Working age people in receipt of Personal Independence Payment; and
 - People in receipt of Carer's Allowance and people in receipt of Attendance Allowance.
- A transfer strategy for people in receipt of Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit from the DWP will be designed when plans for new claims for this benefit are more advanced.
- The Scottish Government is not proposing to transfer existing claims of Severe Disablement Allowance.
- The Scottish Government will continue to work with benefit recipients and stakeholders in the co-design of the case transfer processes. The case transfer process will be based on a series of transfer principles including:
 - Continuation of the correct payment at the correct time.
 - No reapplications for benefits as part of the case transfer.
 - No face to face re-assessment by DWP when new claims for PIP/Disability Assistance for Working Age People are open.
 - Completing the transfer as soon as possible, but without endangering payments.
 - Clear communication with clients.
- Experience Panel research on case transfers was published in August 2019, The results can be found [here](#).

FACTSHEET 11:

Support for carers

- The Scottish Government's first change when the Social Security (Scotland) Act was passed was to introduce Carer's Allowance Supplement (CAS) in September 2018, bringing the amount paid in line with Job Seeker's Allowance through two additional payments a year.
- CAS has helped more than 91,000 Scottish carers, increasing Carer's Allowance by 13%, with an investment of over £33 million in 2018/19, and a commitment to increase CAS annually in line with inflation. This means that in 2019/20 investment will rise to around £37 million.
- Carer's Allowance is delivered by the DWP through an Agency Agreement. This ensured the Scottish Government could pay CAS ahead of building the systems that Carer's Allowance will require.
- The Young Carer Grant was introduced on 21 October 2019. It will help around 1,700 young carers each year through an annual payment of £300. The Scottish Government will also start delivery of additional financial support to carers of more than one disabled child in spring 2021.
- We are introducing Scottish Carer's Allowance after Disability Assistance because it is one of the most complex benefits to be transferred, given its interactions with UK Government tax and low income benefits.
- The Scottish Government will open new applications for all parts of Carer's Assistance by early 2022. To begin with, new claims for Carer's Assistance will be on broadly the same terms as the existing DWP benefit.

FACTSHEET 12:

Terminal Illness Definition and Rules

- The Scottish Government included provision in the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 to introduce a new definition of terminal illness that differs from the current UK Government definition.
- The Act says that “*An individual is to be regarded as having a terminal illness ifit is the clinical judgement of a registered medical practitioner that the individual has a progressive disease that can reasonably be expected to cause the individual's death*”.
- The new definition sets no arbitrary timeframe of prognosis, recognising instead that a person-centred approach to terminal diagnosis should be based on the clinical judgement and expertise of the registered medical practitioner.
- The Chief Medical Officer has established a Short-Life Working Group on Terminal Illness for Disability Assistance to develop guidance. A Reference Group (SHRG), which comprises wider stakeholders, has also been established to enrich the development of the draft guidance.
- The groups have finalised an initial draft of the guidance. A managed consultation process was launched on 12 February and closed on 19 April 2019. Given the clinical nature of the guidance, it has been issued to a wider group of medical professionals, as well as representatives of support and advocacy organisations whose views will inform its continued development.
- Registered Medical Practitioners, who certify that their patient is terminally ill for the purposes of determining eligibility for disability assistance under special rules, will communicate this directly and securely to Social Security Scotland.
- For an eligible person there will be no qualifying period; no requirement to undergo further assessment; awards will be calculated from date of application; and entitlement will be to the highest rate(s) of assistance for the relevant benefit.

FACTSHEET 13:

Cold Spell and Winter Heating Assistance

- In Scotland, Winter Heating Assistance will replace Winter Fuel Payments and Cold Spell Heating Assistance will replace Cold Weather Payments.
- The Winter Fuel Payment is a universal, annual tax-free payment made to pensioners to help towards their winter heating costs.
- The Scottish Government's first priority is to ensure current and new recipients receive the benefit they are entitled to. However we are working to improve the way that the new Winter Heating Assistance will be delivered to households, in particular, in remote rural and island communities that are not on the gas grid.
- From the end of 2020, any family living in Scotland with a child who is in receipt of the higher rate component of Disability Assistance for Children and Young People will be eligible for Winter Heating Assistance.
- Progressively from Winter 2021 onwards, the Scottish Government will pay Winter Heating Assistance to everyone in Scotland as they reach the State Pension age. Delivery of the Winter Heating Assistance will continue on the basis of existing eligibility.
- Cold Weather Payments are made to households in receipt of certain benefits during prolonged periods of cold weather.
- The first payments of new Cold Spell Heating Assistance will be made from winter 2021 onwards. It will be designed and delivered based upon the existing Cold Weather Payment; there are no plans to change the current eligibility for this benefit or to change the amount of benefit paid.
- The Scottish Government will seek the views of households who have received Winter Fuel Payments and Cold Weather Payments. It has consulted on the introduction of Winter Heating Assistance for severely disabled children as part of the consultation on Disability Assistance in Scotland. The results can be found [here](#).

FACTSHEET 14:

Scottish Child Payment

- The Scottish Government has announced it will introduce a new benefit for low income families to reduce levels of child poverty in Scotland. The Scottish Child Payment will be made to children under the age of 6 by Christmas 2020 and to all eligible children aged under 16 by the end of 2022. It will be administered by Social Security Scotland.
- We anticipate that an estimated 410,000 children will be eligible for the benefit. We anticipate that around 170,000 of those children in around 140,000 households are in the under age 6 group.
- It will be an application-based payment to families in receipt of Universal Credit delivered by Social Security Scotland. Given the lifetime of our plan and our desire to reduce child poverty and as payments will begin before UC is fully in place to all families, we have also included other qualifying benefits.
- It will be a regular cash payment for families who are in receipt of qualifying benefits and who have responsibility for a child. The rate will be £10 per week, per child, to be paid on a four-weekly basis.
- The Scottish Child Payment will not have any cap on the number of eligible children a family can receive a payment for.
- Payments will be made to an individual, on behalf of a household. The payment process will use technology being built for the existing devolved benefits, with payments made four weekly into the client's bank account.

FACTSHEET 15:

Best Start Grant Eligibility

Eligibility

What affects whether you can apply

If you're under 18, you do not need to be on any payments or benefits to apply for Best Start Grant or Best Start Foods.

If you're a parent over 18, you can apply whether you're in work or not, as long as you're getting one of these:

- Universal Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit
- Housing Benefit
- Income Support
- Pension Credit
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)

You cannot get Best Start Grant or Best Start Foods if you only get Child Benefit. You must still be getting one of the benefits or payments from this list to be able to get Best Start Grant or Best Start Foods.

For Best Start Grant, we do not need to know about your income. For Best Start Foods, some of the benefits have an income limit.

If you're not getting any of these benefits or payments, but have applied for one, you can still apply for Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods. If you've already been paid the Sure Start Maternity Grant for a baby, you cannot be paid the Pregnancy and Baby Payment for the same baby.

Best Start Foods and income limits

The benefits you need to be on to get Best Start Foods are the same as Best Start Grant, but some of the benefits have an income limit.

The benefits that have an income limit are:

- Universal Credit – if you or your partner have a job, your joint income from working must be less than £610 a month, after tax and National Insurance – Universal Credit payments are not counted as part of this
- Child Tax Credit, if you're not getting Working Tax Credit – you and your partner's joint income from working must be less than £16,190 per year
- Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit - your income from working must be less than £7,320 per year
- Housing Benefit – you and your partner's joint income from working must be less than £311 a week

If you're 18 or 19 and do not get benefits

If you're 18 or 19 and do not get any benefits or payments, you can still apply for Best Start Grant or Best Start Foods if your parent or carer gets one of these for you:

- Child Tax Credit
- Child Benefit
- Universal Credit child payments
- the child addition part of Pension Credit

FACTSHEET 16:

Best Start Grant – Pregnancy and Baby Payment

Pregnancy and Baby Payment

You can apply for the Pregnancy and Baby Payment from 24 weeks pregnant up to the day your baby is 6 months old. This goes up to 1 if you've taken over looking after a child, such as if you've adopted.

You can apply whether a child is your 1st or not, as long as you apply when your baby is the right age. If you can get the Pregnancy and Baby Payment for your 1st child, you'll be paid £600.

You'll be paid £300 for any child that comes after your 1st, such as your 2nd or 3rd child, or any child after these.

If you apply for twins and have no other children under 16

| Your payment for 1st twin | Your payment for 2nd twin | Extra payment for twins | Total |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| £600 | £300 | £300 | £1200 |

If you apply for twins and have other children under 16

| Your payment for 1st twin | Your payment for 2nd twin | Extra payment for twins | Total |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| £300 | £300 | £300 | £900 |

If you have triplets, you'll be paid an extra £300 on top of what you get for twins. £1500 if you do not have any other children under 16, £1200 if you do.

Your first child is your oldest child under 16. This includes a stepchild, if you have one. It also includes any child you've taken looking after, such as if you've adopted.

If you need help or you want to apply by phone

If you need help, or you'd prefer to apply by phone, you can call 0800 182 2222. You can apply online [here](#).

FACTSHEET 17:

Best Start Grant – Early Learning Payment

Early Learning Payment

You can apply when your child is aged between 2 years old and 3 years 6 months old.

If you get the Early Learning Payment, you'll get £250 for each child you can get the payment for. You can spend this money on any of the things you need for your child at this age. This includes toys to help them learn or trips to new places.

If you need help or you want to apply by phone

If you need help, or you'd prefer to apply by phone, you can call 0800 182 2222. You can apply online [here](#).

FACTSHEET 18:

Best Start Grant – School Age Payment

School Age Payment

When you need to apply for the School Age Payment depends on when your child was born:

| Your child's date of birth | When you need to apply |
|---|--|
| Between 1 March 2014 and 28 February 2015 | Between 3 June 2019 and 29 February 2020 |
| Between 1 March 2015 and 29 February 2016 | Between 1 June 2020 and 28 February 2021 |

You cannot apply outwith these dates.

If your child was born later than February 2016, you'll be able to apply after May 2021. You cannot apply for the School Age Payment for a child born before 1st March 2014.

If you get the School Age Payment, you'll get £250 for each child you can get the payment for.

The School Age Payment has not replaced the [School Clothing Grant](#). The School Age Payment is a new payment and does not affect in any way payments of the [School Clothing Grant](#). If you want to apply for both, you can.

If you need help or you want to apply by phone

If you need help, or you'd prefer to apply by phone, you can call 0800 182 2222. You can apply online [here](#).

FACTSHEET 19:

Best Start Foods

Best Start Foods

Best Start Foods is a prepaid card that you can use to buy healthy foods for children under 3. You can use the card in shops and online.

You can apply for Best Start Foods when you're pregnant, or any time up to your child turning 3 years old. This goes up to 4 years old for a child:

- who's over 2 years old when you apply
- that you also get Healthy Start Vouchers for

If you're getting Healthy Start Vouchers for a child you apply for, you'll be moved from Healthy Start Vouchers to Best Start Foods.

The payments of Best Start Foods are:

- £17 every 4 weeks during pregnancy
- £34 every 4 weeks from your child being born up until they're a 1 year old
- £17 every 4 weeks between the ages of 1 and 3

If your child was between 2 and 4 years old when you applied, and you were getting Healthy Start Vouchers for them, you'll be paid £17 every 4 weeks until they're 4 years old.

You can find out more about [how you can use your Best Start Foods card in shops](#).

Social Security Scotland look after Best Start Foods payments, but a business called Allpay will look after your Best Start Foods card. This includes things like lost Best Start Foods cards and new cards.

If you need help or you want to apply by phone

If you need help, or you'd prefer to apply by phone, you can call 0800 182 2222. You can apply online [here](#).

FACTSHEET 20:

Funeral Support Payment

Funeral Support Payment

- Funeral Support Payment (FSP) launched on 16 September 2019 replacing DWP Funeral Expenses Payment for clients living in Scotland. This one-off payment will help people meet the costs of a funeral. The average DWP payment in Scotland was £1,372 and we will provide a similar level of support.
- Clients can apply with a paper application form, by calling 0800 182 2222 or for the first time online [here](#).
- FSP has three elements (further information on what is included in these sections and how much is awarded is available in the pre-application information is available [here](#)):
 - Burial or cremation costs,
 - Certain transport costs
 - Flat rate payment for other expenses: £700 for most clients or £120 if a funeral plan is in place.
- The flat rate element of payment (£700 or £120) will be updated annually, taking into account the impact of inflation.
- Eligibility for Funeral Support Payment has widened compared to DWP resulting in a 40% increase in the number of people receiving support, and will provide help to people who would receive nothing from DWP. Our new assessment process will also help people understand if they are entitled to support; reduce intrusive questions; and assist in our work to increase take-up.
- Recipients are free to make whatever funeral arrangements are appropriate for their circumstances, and for the payment to be made to them unless they provide consent for the award to be paid to the funeral director directly. This is in line with our principles set out in the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 to treat all clients with dignity, fairness, and respect.
- The target for processing applications is 10 working days of receipt of a completed application, once all the evidence required has been received, with payment made as soon as practicable thereafter.

FACTSHEET 21:

Young Carer Grant

- Young Carers Grant launched on 21 October 2019. It is a new yearly payment of £300 for young carers aged 16 to 18 who live in Scotland. It's a cash benefit to spend as they choose and they can apply if they are at school, in further education, employed or unemployed.
- Young carers may be eligible for Young Carer Grant if they meet all of the criteria below:
 - they live in Scotland
 - they are aged 16 to 18
 - they have been providing care for an average of 16 hours a week, for the last
 - three months. The support they provide may be physical, mental or emotional.
 - the person or people being cared for are getting a qualifying benefit
 - they are not caring for any of the people in the application as a volunteer
 - they are not being paid to provide care for any of the people in the application
 - they have not applied for, or received Carer's Allowance from the DWP, or Northern Ireland's Carer's Allowance.
- If more than one carer applies for the same cared for person, only the first eligible application will get the grant. If the young carer provides shared care with someone else aged 16 to 18, they should agree who should apply for the grant.
- They must have been caring for one or more people on average for at least 16 hours a week for the last three months. Up to three weeks break in care will be allowed during the 13 week qualifying period. As long as they still carry out 208 hours in total over the 13 week period.
- Before applying, the young carer should know the details of the financial account they wish the money to be paid into. If they know their National Insurance number and their cared for person's then this will allow their application to be processed quicker.
- Young Carers can apply with a paper application form, by calling 0800 182 2222, or online [here](#).

FACTSHEET 22:

Advocacy

Advocacy

- To protect eligible people's rights and ensure that they are involved in the decisions affecting them Scottish Government will ensure that advocacy support is available to disabled people who require it. This will mean that an independent advocacy worker can help someone make a claim from Social Security Scotland. There are also provisions in the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 for Ministers to set advocacy service standards. This is a key part of delivering our system based on dignity, fairness and respect.
- The Scottish Government consultation on draft social security advocacy service standards closed on 7 October 2019. The responses to the consultation are being analysed and considered before the standards are finalised.
- The Scottish Government plans to run a procurement process over late 2019/early 2020 for the delivery of advocacy services. The intention is to have funding awarded in sufficient time for services to recruit staff and prepare for delivering social security advocacy support by summer 2020.

FACTSHEET 23:

Benefit Take-up

- The first [Benefit Take-up Strategy](#) was published on 21 October 2019, under the provision of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018.
- The Strategy sets out a number of new activities and initiatives which aim to progress the ultimate goal of increasing awareness of and supporting access to Scottish benefits:
 - A new £500,000 fund available for 2020 to assist organisations who are preparing their services and staff to support people who will be applying for Scottish benefits.
 - A new £100,000 take-up accessibility fund available for 2020 to assist organisations who support people to increase their household incomes, with an emphasis on ensuring people are aware of the financial support available to them.
 - A stakeholder take-up reference group will be established to provide advice and support in the implementation of this strategy, as well as feeding into the development of the next strategy.
 - Two roundtable events on access to social security – co-designed with key organisations – will bring together people with experience of the system, and organisations that support them, to explore solutions to issues such as stigma, barriers to access, and the human rights-based approach.
 - We will continue to forge relationships with a wide range of national and local stakeholders to enable us to continue making progress with Social Security Scotland’s stakeholder engagement strategy.
 - Communications and marketing will continue to draw on strategic insights to deliver co-ordinated and consistent activities to best promote Scottish benefits.
 - In the interests of continuous improvement, we will continue to work with the Experience Panels, conduct targeted research with seldom-heard groups, and develop the work of Social Security Scotland’s Client Insights.

- The Strategy also sets out our best estimates of take-up for Best Start Grant – as the only application-based Scottish benefit being delivered at time of preparation of the strategy.
- The Benefit Take-up and Income Maximisation Funds are both open to applications between 27 November 2019 and 31 January 2020. Information on applying to these funds can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT THE DEVOLVED SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

Intranet Article

You can add this article, **for your staff**, onto your organisation's intranet about the Scottish Government's social security plans.

The Scottish Government is establishing a new social security system administered by Social Security Scotland.

Once fully operational, it will deliver benefits to 1.4 million people and provide £4.2 billion in payments every year.

The benefits (shown in the table below) will include a number of payments previously offered through the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), including Disability Assistance, as well as brand new benefits such as the Scottish Child Payment and the Young Carer's Grant.

The Scottish Government will gradually introduce the benefits that it is creating, including the ones that will replace the DWP benefits in Scotland.

On Thursday 28 February, the Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for Social Security and Older People updated the Scottish Parliament on the high level delivery timetable for benefits.

On 26 June 2019, the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government announced the Scottish Government will introduce a new benefit for low income families to reduce levels of child poverty in Scotland called the Scottish Child Payment. You can read it [here](#).

An updated Scottish Child Payment position paper was published on 4 October 2019 which sets out policy developments which had been undertaken alongside continued work on service design and delivery. You can read it [here](#).

| Department for Work and Pensions benefit | Our replacement benefit | Date available |
|---|---|-----------------------|
| Not applicable – new benefit | Carer's Allowance Supplement | Available now |
| Sure Start Maternity Grant | Best Start Grant Pregnancy and Baby Payment | Available now |
| Not applicable – new benefit | Best Start Grant Early Years Payment | Available now |
| Not applicable – new benefit | Best Start Grant School Age Payment | Available now |
| Healthy Start Vouchers | Best Start Foods | Available now |
| Funeral Expense Payment | Funeral Support Payment | Available now |
| Not applicable – new benefit | Young Carer Grant | Available now |
| Not applicable – new benefit | Job Start Payment | Spring 2020 |
| Child Disability Living Allowance | Disability Assistance for Children and Young People | Summer 2020 |
| No equivalent | Scottish Child Payment for under 6s | Christmas 2020 |
| No equivalent | Children who receive the highest care component of Disability Assistance become entitled to Winter Heating Assistance | By end of 2020 |
| Personal Independence Payments | Disability Assistance for Working Age People | Early 2021 |
| No equivalent | Additional payments to carers who look after more than one disabled child | Early 2021 |
| Attendance Allowance | Disability Assistance for Older People | 2021 |
| Winter Fuel Payment | Winter Heating Assistance | Winter 2021 |
| Cold Weather Payment | Cold Spell - Heating Assistance | Winter 2021 |
| Carer's Allowance | Scottish Carer's Allowance | Early 2022 |
| Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit | Employment Injury Assistance | Autumn 2022 |
| No equivalent | Scottish Child Payment for under 16s | By the end of 2022 |

SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT THE DEVOLVED SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

Website Newsletter/Article

You can add these news stories to your organisation's website or newsletter **to inform your clients** about the Scottish Government's plans.

Spread the word about the Young Carer Grant

Why is the Young Carer Grant only available to young carers aged 16, 17 and 18 year olds?

Young people aged 16, 17 and 18 are often at transition point in their lives as they move into the adult world. They may be finishing school, getting a first job, undertaking further study or taking up new leisure opportunities. For many young adults with significant caring responsibilities, their opportunities may be limited by their caring role. The aim of the grant is to help young people improve their quality of life and take part in opportunities that are the norm for other young adults.

Stakeholders have been unequivocal that providing payments to under 16s through the social security system is inappropriate. Making payments to carers under 16 carries the risk that the Scottish Government would put young people at risk of financial abuse and may be pressurised into a caring role in order to get the payment.

Do 18 year olds need to be in school to receive Young Carer Grant?

No this is no longer the case. During the consultation the draft regulations contained the stipulation that 18 year olds had to be in school to receive Young Carer Grant. The consultation felt the grant should be more inclusive so this stipulation was dropped allowing all young carers to apply regardless of their educational status.

How will young carers apply for the grant?

The grant will be open to applications from 21 October 2019, and young carers will be able to apply by three methods;

- Online at <https://www.mygov.scot/young-carer-grant/>
- By phoning Social Security Scotland for free on 0800 182 2222
- By paper form that can be downloaded at mygov.scot and returned to: PO Box 10314, Dundee, DD1 9GN. They can also

request the paper form with a prepaid envelope by phoning the agency.

Over the development period we spoke to 234 people, over 100 of those being young carers. During these conversations we tested our application forms and changed any part that someone struggled on. This has helped us produce an application with its users at the heart, that has been designed to be accessible to all young carers.

Will young carers be able to see someone face-to-face in a local office?

Yes. The Social Security Agency will provide a local presence, with a human face, where people can go to get one-to-one support from someone from the agency if required. This will be based, wherever possible, in places that people already visit so that the agency's services can be joined up with other related support. Depending on their preference people will also be able to engage with the agency through a range of additional options including online and by phone.

Will young carers be allowed breaks in care?

Yes, of the 13 week qualifying period the young carer needs to care for an average of 16 hours a week. Of these 13 weeks we allow up to three weeks break in care. This is to accommodate young carers who care for someone who's care needs may vary from week to week without having to start their application again.

Will young carers be able to combine the number of hours they care a week over multiple people?

Yes. Young carers will be able to combine the number of hours they care for up to three people to make the 16 hour a week threshold.

For example, on average a young carer may spend eight hours a week caring for their grandmother, two hours a week caring for a sibling and six hours a week caring for a neighbour. By combining these hours the young carer would meet the minimum average 16 hour a week criteria and be eligible for Young Carer Grant.

Does Young Carer Grant stop the young carer applying for Carer's Allowance?

No. If a young carer believes they are eligible for both Young Carer Grant and Carer's Allowance we encourage them to apply for Young Carer Grant first. Once they have received this they can apply for Carer's Allowance.

They must do it this way round as those in receipt, or who have applied for Carer's Allowance will be ineligible for Young Carer Grant.

Will a young carer still be eligible for Young Carer Grant if someone else is already claiming Carer's Allowance?

Yes. The young carer will still be able to access Young Carer Grant if someone else is claiming Carer's Allowance for the same cared for person.

How are young carers notified of any decision?

Once a decision has been made a successful applicant will receive an acceptance letter. This informs them that their application has been successful and the amount they will receive and when. This will always be the full amount, which initially will be £300 and then uprated with inflation.

If the applicant is unsuccessful they will receive a denial letter. This will let them know why they have been deemed ineligible and include a redetermination form. If the applicant does believe the decision is wrong they may return the completed form to Social Security Scotland or phone them on 0800 182 2222.

What can Young Carer Grant be spent on?

The young carer is free to use the money however they like.

Young Carer Grant is intended to support young carers to:

- look after their own health and wellbeing, improve their quality of life and reduce any negative impact of caring
- participate fully in society and, if they choose, engage in training, education and employment opportunities, as well as social and leisure
- have an increased sense of control and empowerment over their lives

By giving freedom to the young carer on how they spend their money we can empower them to choose what they feel is best for themselves.

SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT THE DEVOLVED SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

Spread the word about benefit take-up

A key principle enshrined in the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 is that social security is an investment in the people of Scotland. Scottish benefits will support over half a million people and we want all who are eligible to take-up the financial support available to them.

Throughout this parliamentary term, we are delivering a programme of activity intended to raise awareness of Scottish benefits, and to ensure that people are receiving what they're entitled to.

The Scottish Government are working with local authorities, NHS boards, third sector organisations and a range of advice and support services to:

- better understand the barriers preventing people from claiming benefits
- ensure we take every reasonable step to encourage people to receive their full entitlement

Benefit take-up strategy

The Scottish Government published the first [Benefit Take-up Strategy](#) (October 2019) under the provision of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018. The strategy sets out Scottish Ministers' work supporting benefit take-up to date. It also introduces a series of new activities and initiatives aimed at increasing awareness of and access to Scottish benefits and supporting those who are eligible to apply. These include:

- a new £500,000 [Scottish Benefit Take-up Fund](#) to be launched in November 2019, and available for 2020, to assist organisations who are preparing their services and staff to support people who will be applying for Scottish benefits
- a new £100,000 [Income Maximisation Fund](#) available for 2020 to assist organisations who support people to increase their household incomes, with an emphasis on ensuring people are aware of the financial support available to them
- establishing a Take-up Stakeholder Reference Group to provide advice and support in the implementation of this strategy, as well as feeding into the development of the next strategy
- developing a Take-up Stakeholder Toolkit to help existing services to support their clients with Scottish benefits, and – in particular – with issues related to non-take-up

- two roundtable events on access to social security to be held in 2020 which will be co-designed with important organisations to explore solutions to issues such as stigma, barriers to access, and the human rights-based approach

Benefit Take-up and Income Maximisation Funds

The [Benefit Take-up and Income Maximisation Funds](#) opened to applications on 27 November 2019. These funds recognise the important role that voluntary organisations play in supporting people living in Scotland to take-up their benefit entitlement.

Both funds will be open to applications from organisations (including registered charities) which:

- are established for charitable, benevolent or philanthropic purposes and
- provide free and impartial advice to people living in Scotland who are applying for, or seeking to apply for, Scottish social security benefits and
- do not gain any direct economic advantage from advice provided, for example through provision of further chargeable services

Application support is available to smaller organisations (with an annual turnover below £200,000). This is provided on our behalf by the [Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations](#).

[Application form and guidance for the Benefit Take-up and Income Maximisation Funds.](#)

SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT THE DEVOLVED SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

Blogs

If you have a blog channel and would welcome guest blogs, **please find below content that can be attributed to the Cabinet Secretary for Social Security and Older People, Shirley-Anne Somerville**. Please also feel free to use any quotes from this blog in any news pieces that you wish to produce.

A benefits system with people at its heart

From 1 April 2020, responsibility for all devolved benefits, including their funding, will sit with the Scottish Government.

Starting in 2020, around half a million cases – the equivalent of around 10% of people in Scotland – will transfer from the Department for Work and Pensions to Social Security Scotland.

Within a programme which is already the largest transfer of powers since devolution, these forms of assistance are incredibly complex.

I want to ensure that there is real trust placed in our social security system in Scotland. To gain this trust we must uphold our values of treating people with dignity, fairness and respect.

We will continue to listen to people and gather views to inform our thinking and check that what we are proposing is right before we progress to developing regulations. For example, in support of the disability benefits due to launch in 2020 and into 2021, the Scottish Government has completed a consultation on the Scottish approach to Disability Assistance. The results can be found [here](#).

The consultation results were published on 28 October 2019. This information will be considered along with the findings from the 2016 consultation and continued work with Experience Panels and Stakeholders. The responses, including some from several events held across Scotland will continue to inform policy development and service design to meet the needs of the children and adults it is intended to help.

SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT THE DEVOLVED SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

Getting it right for Scotland

We have repeatedly heard about the stress and anxiety caused by the current UK Government system. We will ensure that the Scottish social security system is different. We will create a fair, transparent system which respects the needs of individuals and works for people, not against them.

We've come a long way in a short time. I do not underestimate the complexity nor the importance of the work still to be done. But the prize of getting it right is a great one - a social security system with dignity, fairness and respect at its heart which works for the people of Scotland.

SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT THE DEVOLVED SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

Social Media

Here is some social media for you to use.

[Tweet 1.](#)

The Scottish Government has set out its ambitious timetable for the delivery of replacement benefits that will be introduced using its new Social Security powers.

|  | | |
|---|---|----------------|
| Department for Work and Pensions benefit | Scottish Government replacement benefit | Date available |
| Disability Living Allowance (child) | Disability Assistance for Children and Young People | Summer 2020 |
| Attendance Allowance | Disability Assistance for Older People | 2021 |
| Personal Independence Payments | Disability Assistance for Working Age People | Early 2021 |
| Carer's Allowance | Carer's Assistance | Early 2022 |
| Winter Fuel Payment | Winter Heating Assistance | Winter 2021 |
| Cold Weather Payment | Cold Spell - Heating Assistance | Winter 2021 |
| N/A | Scottish Child Payment Under 6 years of age | Christmas 2020 |
| N/A | Scottish Child Payment All children under 16 years of age | Winter 2022 |

Tweet 2.

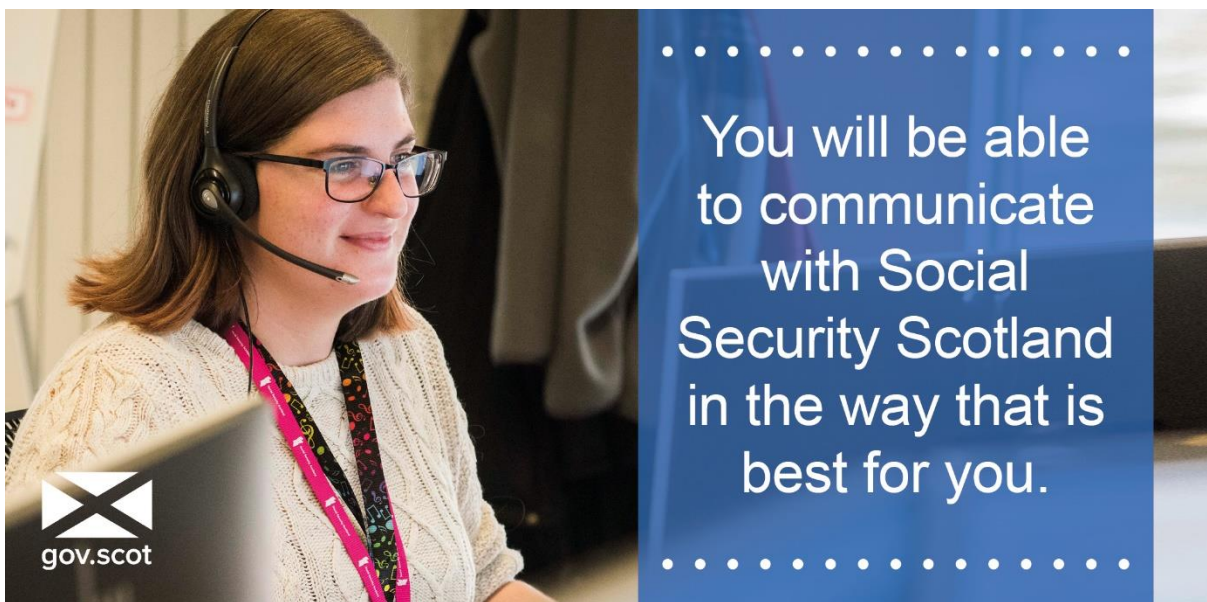
The Scottish Government has created a series of documents with updates on the benefits and payments they will introduce -

www.gov.scot/publications/social-security-policy-position-papers/



Tweet 3.

You will be able to communicate with Social Security Scotland in the way that is best for you.



Tweet 4.

Our new social security system is designed together with users themselves and puts people first. Once fully operational, you will be able to apply for Social Security Scotland benefits online, by phone, post or in person. The process will be clear and accessible from start to finish so that people understand how and when their application will be dealt with.

gov.scot/news/reform-to



The infographic features a blue background with white icons and text. At the top, a dotted line separates the header from the content. Below this, four icons are arranged horizontally: a telephone handset, two people silhouettes, a person at a laptop, and an envelope. Each icon is accompanied by its respective label: 'by phone', 'in person', 'online', and 'by post'. A second dotted line is positioned below these icons. At the bottom left, the 'gov.scot' logo is displayed. To the right of the logo, the text reads: 'The Scottish Government is committed to ensuring individuals are offered a choice of channels to apply for benefits.'

Tweet 5.

The Scottish Government will not means test disability assistance and if you are employed this will have no impact on your entitlement.



The infographic consists of a blue vertical panel on the left containing white text: 'The Scottish Government will not means test disability assistance. If you are employed this will have no impact on your entitlement.' The 'gov.scot' logo is at the bottom left of this panel. To the right of the panel is a photograph of two women walking in a hallway. One woman is using a walking stick. In the background, a banner for 'Inclusion Scotland Disabled People's Organisation' is visible, with the slogan 'Our voices • Our choices'.

Tweet 6.

Social Security Scotland will take into consideration how your condition affects you and your circumstances.



Tweet 7.

The Scottish Government is committed to reducing the number of individuals required to attend a face to face assessment.



Tweet 8.

If you do need to have a face to face assessment, you will be able to bring a supporter with you, or have access to independent advocacy if you have a disability that means that you would find it difficult to engage fully in the assessment.



Tweet 9.

In the new Scottish social security system, if a face to face assessment is required, it will be audio recorded as standard and individuals will routinely be provided with a copy of the report written by the assessor without having to request it.



Tweet 10.

The Scottish Government social security system will make awards that are person-centred. Awards will be made on a rolling basis, which means that awards will not be stopped when a review is underway.

All awards for Disability Assistance in the Scottish Government social security system will be indefinite.



Tweet 11.

The Scottish Government will improve provision for people with a terminal illness. There will be no requirement to undergo further assessment, awards will be calculated from the date of application and entitlement to the highest rate of assistance that a person is eligible for.

The Scottish Government social security system will improve provision for people with a terminal illness.



Tweet 12.

Next Spring, with the UK Government’s co-operation, we will introduce the Job Start Payment for 16-24 year olds. This new £250 payment (£400 for those with children). It will help around 4,400 young people with the cost of starting a new job.



Tweet 13.

The new £10 weekly Scottish Child Payment has taken its first step to being introduced.

Once fully rolled out, the benefit could help up to 410,000 eligible under 16s and lift 30,000 children out of poverty.

<https://news.gov.scot/news/first-step-to-new-scottish-child-payment>



Tweet 14.

The Scottish Child Payment puts more money into parents' and carers' pockets to help make ends meet.

This new benefit will provide eligible families with £10 a week for every child under 16, lifting around 30,000 children out of relative poverty when fully rolled out.


#ScotPfG



Tweet 15.

Two new funds have opened for applications from voluntary organisations to support people in Scotland to access the benefits they are entitled to. To apply: click [here](#) Application support: click [here](#) Deadline: 31 January 2020

| | |
|--|---|
| Scottish Benefit Take-up Fund | Scottish Income Maximisation Fund |
| £500,000 fund for services to support people applying for Scottish benefits. | £100,000 fund for services to support people to increase their household incomes. |



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What benefits have the Scottish Government delivered so far?

- On 4 October 2017, the Scottish Government introduced the Universal Credit Scottish Choices giving people in Scotland a choice of being paid Universal Credit twice a month rather than monthly, and having their Universal Credit housing element being paid directly to their landlords. By the end of February 2019, 133,480 people had been offered one or both Scottish choices since October 2017, with around 63,360 – almost 50% - taking up the offer.
- In 2018 the Scottish Government opened Social Security Scotland to deliver devolved benefits. It began by delivering the Carer's Allowance Supplement which brings Carers Allowance to the same level as Jobseeker's Allowance – an increase of 13% and investment of £33 million in 2018/19 and £37 million in 2019/20.
- The Scottish Government then introduced the new Best Start Grant Pregnancy and Baby Payment for low income parents and carers, offering £600 on the birth of their first child, £300 for any subsequent children and an additional £300 for a multiple birth.
- Best Start Grant Early Learning Payment is now available – a new £250 payment that will be made to low income families around the time a child can start nursery.
- Best Start Grant School Age Payment is now available – a new £250 payment that will be made to low income families around the time a child can start school.
- Best Start Foods (replacement for UK Government's Healthy Start Vouchers scheme) launched on 12 August 2019. Paper vouchers have been replaced by a Payment Card giving eligible low income families more choice and flexibility to buy healthy food.
- Funeral Support Payment (replacement for Funeral Expenses Payment) launched on 16 September 2019. It provides eligible people on low income benefits with a contribution towards the cost of a funeral. Improvements on the equivalent DWP benefit include widening eligibility by around 40%, providing help to people who would otherwise receive nothing from DWP.

- Young Carer's Grant launched on 21 October 2019. The grant will be awarded to young carers aged 16 to 18 who do at least 16 hours of caring a week, but don't qualify for Carer's Allowance.

What benefits will be delivered from 2020 onwards?

- The Job Start Payment will be launched in Spring 2020 and comprise a one-off cash payment of either £250 or £400, the higher amount being payable to young people who have children.
- Young people aged 16-24 (inclusive), who have been out of paid employment for six months or more, can apply. The payment will provide additional support to care leavers, as long as they are on a qualifying benefit, without having to meet the requirement to have been out of paid work for 6 months. Care leavers will also be eligible for a year longer (until their 26th birthday).
- From April 2020 the Scottish Government take full responsibility for the remaining devolved benefits, which means benefits will start to be fully funded by the Scottish Government.
- This means that both the UK and Scottish Governments will, for the first time, share clients and people will get payments from DWP and Social Security Scotland. Those payments need to interact with one another, so both agencies systems need to work together seamlessly, to ensure people get the right money at the right time.
- Following the benefit transfer in April 2020, the Scottish Government will then start to roll out new claims for devolved benefits starting with disability benefits, then move to carers assistance and other devolved benefits.
- Following that, the case transfer of clients from the DWP to Social Security Scotland will take place.
- By early 2022 the Scottish Government will be delivering new claims for all Disability and Carer's Assistance, and supporting families with their winter fuel bills.

Factsheets on each of the benefits are available at pages 9 to 37 and the timetable for the delivery of new claims for devolved assistance is on page 8.

How will cases be transferred from the UK Government to Social Security Scotland?

- Over half a million cases will be transferred from the DWP to Social Security Scotland. This equates to approximately 10% of the population of Scotland.
- The Scottish Government will do this in a way which causes minimal stress, and keep people updated through the transfer. At the point of transfer the Scottish Government will not require anyone to make a new claim; payments will be protected; and people will not be reassessed.
- The Scottish Government will start this transfer in 2020. If the DWP is able to match the Scottish Government's pace, the majority of cases will be transferred by 2024, and completed by 2025.

How did the Scottish Government choose what to deliver first?

- The Scottish Government is aiming to strike a balance between moving at pace and ensuring that it takes over the devolved benefits safely, with minimal disruption to people who rely on them.

Who decides policy on these benefits?

- As of 1 April 2020 the Scottish Government will have policy and payment responsibility for all the remaining devolved benefits.
- When the Scottish Government takes on responsibility for these benefits, they will progressively take over administering them, while taking the time to ensure that it safeguards people's regular payments.

- The Scottish Government will work with the DWP to develop agency agreements to partially administer the devolving benefits until Social Security Scotland is delivering them in full. Agency agreements are necessary to ensure there are no gaps in service for people who rely on these benefits as they are transferred.

What will happen to a person's current claim with the DWP?

- The Scottish Government will start transferring people's existing claims from 2020. If a person has an existing award with DWP for one of the devolved benefits then they don't need to do anything.
- They will not need to make a new claim in order to move onto the Scottish benefits, and he/she won't be reassessed at the point when the case transfers.
- The Scottish Government will work with the DWP to arrange for the transfer to happen automatically, and the Scottish Government will keep people informed of what will happen and when – before and during the process.



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