

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

### Social Security Scotland

Social Security Scotland are starting to make a difference to people's lives in Scotland by offering an additional range of benefits. So far, Social Security Scotland have launched Carers Allowance Supplement and Best Start Grant.

### What is Carers Allowance Supplement?

Carer's Allowance Supplement is an extra payment for people in Scotland who get Carer's Allowance on a particular date. It is paid two times a year and it does not affect any other benefits that you may receive.

Last year Social Security Scotland paid out £33.9 million to 83,000 eligible carers in Scotland.

### What is Best Start Grant?

Best Start Grant is 3 cash payments that you can apply for if you are a parent or a carer.

You can get these payments:

- if you have a child who's the right age for a payment
- whether you're in work or not, as long as you're on certain payments or tax credits.

The 3 available one-off cash payments are:

1. Pregnancy and Baby Payment
2. Early Learning Payment
3. School Age 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 year old if you've taken over looking after a child, such as if you've adopted.

You can apply for a child whether they're your first child or not.

If you receive Pregnancy and Baby Payment for your first child, you'll be paid £600.

You'll receive £300 for any child that comes after your first, such as your second or third child.

### Early Learning Payment

You can apply from your child's second birthday up to the day your child is 3 years, 6 months old. If you can get the Early Learning Payment, you'll be paid £250 for each child you are eligible for the payment for.

### School Age Payment

You can apply for the School Age Payment in the year your child should be starting school.

Exact dates when you must apply depend on when your child was born:

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

You cannot apply out with 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 1 March 2014.

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

## HAVE YOU TOLD UC ABOUT YOUR NEW RENT CHARGE?

Have you told Universal Credit what your new rent charge was from 1st April 2019?

If you have not done this, you will need to make sure that you do as soon as possible. Here are details of some of the questions that Universal Credit may ask you about your rent.

Questions You May Be Asked	How To Answer
When did your rent change?	01/04/2019 is when your rent increased
How much rent do you pay? <i>If you are not sure what your rent charge is call us on 0800 011 3447 and ask us for details.</i>	The amount you enter should NOT include any service charge that you have to pay.
Do you have housing costs?	Answer Yes
How often do you pay rent?	Select weekly
Where do you live now?	Answer I rent from a council of housing association
How much do you pay in service charges? <i>If you are not sure if your rent includes a service charge call us on 0800 011 3447 and ask us for details.</i>	If you have No service charge answer £0.00 <i>A service charge could be for Communal Stair Cleaning or Communal Grounds Maintenance.</i>
How often do you pay service charges?	Select weekly
Do you have any rent free weeks?	Answer No
Is DGHP your landlord?	Answer Yes
How many bedrooms do you have?	Say how many bedrooms are in your home

## ARE YOU MISSING OUT?

Government figures published in November 2018 show that approximately £10 billion pounds goes unclaimed in state benefits each year. Could you be missing out?

Others do not know if they would be entitled to receive any state benefits. Many people do not want to claim for something that they are actually entitled to.

Don't sit in silence. If you think that you could be missing out contact us on 0800 011 3447 and ask to be referred to our SWITCH team for a benefit health check.

Two of the most common benefits that we help people apply for are Personal Independence Payment (PIP) and Attendance Allowance (AA). Below are some details about each of these benefits.

### What are Personal Independence Payments?

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) can help you with some of the extra costs if you have a long term ill-health or disability. The amount you get depends on how your condition affects you, not the condition itself. You could get paid between £23.20 and £148.85 a week if you're aged 16 or over and have not reached State Pension age.

### How do I qualify for PIP?

You must be aged 16 or over and have not reached State Pension age to claim.

You must also have a health condition or disability where you:

- have had difficulties with daily living or getting around (or both) for 3 months; AND

- you expect these difficulties to continue for at least 9 months (unless you're terminally ill with less than 6 months to live)

You must have lived in England, Scotland or Wales for at least 2 of the last 3 years AND be in one of these countries when you apply. If you've recently returned from living in another EEA country, you might be able to get PIP sooner.

You can get PIP whether you're working or not.

### What is Attendance Allowance?

Attendance Allowance helps with extra costs if you have a disability severe enough that you need someone to help look after you.

It's paid at 2 different rates and how much you get depends on the level of care that you need because of your disability.

You could get £58.70 or £87.65 a week to help with personal support if you're both:

- physically or mentally disabled
- State Pension age or older

It does not cover mobility needs.

The other benefits you get can increase if you get Attendance Allowance (for example Housing Benefit).

You do not have to have someone caring for you in order to claim.

You can get Attendance Allowance if you've reached State Pension age and the following apply:

- you have a physical disability (including sensory disability, for example blindness), a mental disability (including learning difficulties), or both
- your disability is severe enough for you to need help caring for yourself or someone to supervise you, for your own or someone else's safety
- you have needed that help for at least 6 months (unless you're terminally ill).

### You must also:

- be in Great Britain when you claim

There are some exceptions, such as members and family members of the armed forces.

- have been in Great Britain for at least 2 of the last 3 years (this does not apply if you're a refugee or have humanitarian protection status)
- be habitually resident in the UK, Ireland, Isle of Man or the Channel Islands
- not be subject to immigration control (unless you're a sponsored immigrant).

There are some exceptions to these conditions if you're living in another European Economic Area (EEA) country or Switzerland.

If you think that you could be missing out on one of these benefits, or any other benefits, contact us on **0800 011 3447** and ask to be referred to our SWITCH team for a benefit health check.

## DO YOU NEED A LITTLE HELP WITH UNIVERSAL CREDIT?

If you are struggling with your Universal Credit claim, have a question or you need help to claim Universal Credit then come speak to us when we are at your local Job Centre.

We attend all the local job centres once a fortnight so pop along and speak to us there.

Below are details of where we will be up to the end of this year. We will be at each Job Centre from 10am until 12:30pm.

**Dumfries - every second Wednesday from 24th July - 11th December**

**Annan - every second Thursday from 1st August - 19th December**

**Stranraer - every second Wednesday from 31st July - 18th December**

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for any changes to dates and times.