



Social Security Scotland  
Tèarainteachd Shòisealta Alba

# Social Security Scotland

Colette Bryson

Date: 19.12.19

**Dignity, fairness, respect.**





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# Agency Structure

- Executive Agency of the Scottish Government from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018. Set up to deliver a number of benefits.
- We are the most significant new public service to be established in Scotland since devolution.
- Employing approx. 1,900 people when fully operational.
- Two administrative centres
  - Dundee Headquarters and Glasgow
- Freephone number: 0800 182 2222.
- 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday.

# Local Delivery

We will provide a face to face service in the form of:

- A dedicated, co-located service delivered from a location alongside existing local services.
- Regular 'outreach' where our clients go i.e. Medical Centres, Community Centres etc.
- Visits to prison and hospitals to offer advice and support to people during their stay and in preparation for their release and discharge.
- Home visits.
- Consider and deliver on ad-hoc requests and manage effectively.



# How clients will reach us

Clients will have a choice in how they access our services:

- Access on-line
- Paper form
- Drop into a local site or outreach location for a face-to-face discussion
- Contact us by phone
- Visits carried out at home, hospital, prison
- Be referred to us via a third party
- Can use existing services if they prefer (local welfare advice services)



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# Devolved Benefits

- Best Start Grant.
- Best Start Foods.
- Funeral Support Payment.
- Young Carer's Grant.
- Disability Assistance for Children & Young People.
- Disability Assistance for Older People.
- Disability Assistance for Working Age People.
- Carer's Assistance.



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# Devolved Benefits

- Employment Injury Assistance.
- Cold Spell Heating Assistance.
- Winter Heating Assistance.
- Job Start Payment.
- Scottish Child Payment.

# Our timeline

Benefit	Client Group	Implementation Date
<p>Carers Allowance Supplement.</p> <p>The Carer's Allowance Supplement is two automatic payments totalling £452.40 this year (2019).</p>	<p>Carers in receipt of Carer's Allowance and live in a Scottish postcode. The qualifying date for the December payment was 14 October 2019.</p>	<p>In delivery (first run September 2018). The majority of carers will have received their payment of Carer's Allowance Supplement on Friday 13 December 2019</p>
<p>Best Start Grant.</p>	<p>People on low incomes and on receipt of certain qualifying benefits.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pregnancy and Baby Payment 10<sup>th</sup> December 18.</li> <li>• Early Years Payment 29<sup>th</sup> April 19.</li> <li>• School Age Payment 3<sup>rd</sup> June 19.</li> </ul>
<p>Best Start Foods.</p>	<p>People on receipt of the Healthy Start Voucher scheme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New claims from 12<sup>th</sup> August.</li> <li>• Migration starts from 26<sup>th</sup> August and will be completed by March 2020.</li> </ul>

# Our timeline

Benefit	Client Group	Implementation Date
Funeral Support Payment.	People on low incomes and on receipt of certain qualifying benefits.	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> September.
Young Carer Grant.	Young people aged 16, 17 and 18 who spend an average of 16 hours per week caring for a person or people who receive a disability benefit.	21 <sup>st</sup> October 2019
Job Start Payment	Financial support for 16-24 year olds to help with the initial costs of starting work.	2020
Disability Assistance for Children & Young People (new claims).	Under 18s needing additional care or with mobility difficulties.	2020



# Our timeline

Benefit	Client Group	Implementation Date
Disability Assistance for Older People (new claims).	Over state pension age with a physical or mental disability that necessitates support from a carer or supervision.	2021
Disability Assistance for Working Age People.	People aged under state pension age needing additional care or with mobility difficulties.	2021
Carer's Assistance.	People under state pension age providing more than 35 hours care a week to a person receiving particular disability benefits.	2022
Scottish Child Payment.	Low income families with children under 6 years old.	2020 – Households with children under 6. 2022 – All other households.

# Our timeline

Benefit	Client Group	Implementation Date
Cold Spell Heating Assistance	Cold Spell Heating Assistance.	2021
Winter Heating Assistance	Eligible older people in Scotland who receive another type of payment from us.	2021
Winter Heating Assistance for those in receipt of the highest component of Disability Assistance for Children and Young People	Disability Living Allowance for Children.	2021
Employment Injury Assistance	Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefits.	2020

# Best Start Grant

## Pregnancy and Baby Payment: From 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

- Paying £600 rather than £500 for the first child.
- Introducing £300 payments for second and subsequent children.
- Extending eligibility to anyone on tax credits or housing benefit and all under 18s.
- Not placing a limit on the number of children who can qualify.
- Extending the application window to 24 weeks pregnant to 6 months after birth, giving clients longer to apply.
- Taking applications on the phone and on-line as well as on a paper form, to give a choice depending on the needs of the client.
- No longer requiring health professionals to sign the form to evidence pregnancy. We will use baby box data to verify pregnancy or other evidence such as the MATB1 form if the applicant has not had a baby box.
- Since its launch in December 2018 to September 2019, £7.7 million has been paid out to families with children up to six months old.

# Best Start Grant

Early Learning Payment: From 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

School Age Payment: From 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019.

- A further 2 separate Best Start Grant payments of £250, per child, introduced to help with the costs of early learning at the age of 2 to 3.5 years and when they start school.
- Single application process for all 3 levels of Best Start Grant.
- Along with Early Learning Payment and School Age Payment, a total of £17.7 million has gone to low income families with young children through 61,000 payments between December 2018 and September 2019.

# Best Start Foods

## New applications from 12<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

- Same application as Best Start Grant.
- Payment of £4.25 will be made in 4 weekly cycles in advance.
- Double payment is awarded in the child's first year.
- Payment runs are set – all client receive funds on same day.
- Clients will receive £17 per pregnant mother/child via smart card every 4 weeks (£34 per 4 weeks if child under one)
- Best Start Foods is paid until a child turns 3 years old.
- Migration of the existing Healthy Start Voucher clients will take place between August 2019 and March 2020.
- Invitation to apply will be in a phased approach by postcode.
- Communications will work along side this, targeting postcode areas on social media in line with invitations.


# Funeral Support Payment

From Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

- One off payment to help people on low income benefits with a contribution towards the cost of the funeral. Was previously Funeral Expenses Payment.
- 3 elements of payment – Uncapped element includes costs for burial or cremation, medical documents required for burial or cremation, documents to access money of the deceased to help pay for the funeral and cost of removal of medical devices. Certain travel costs. Flat rate set at £700 for other costs.
- Applicant has to be on receipt of certain qualifying benefits and be the nearest relationship to the person who has died and be responsible for paying for the funeral.
- Application timeframe – after the date of death to 6 months after funeral has occurred.

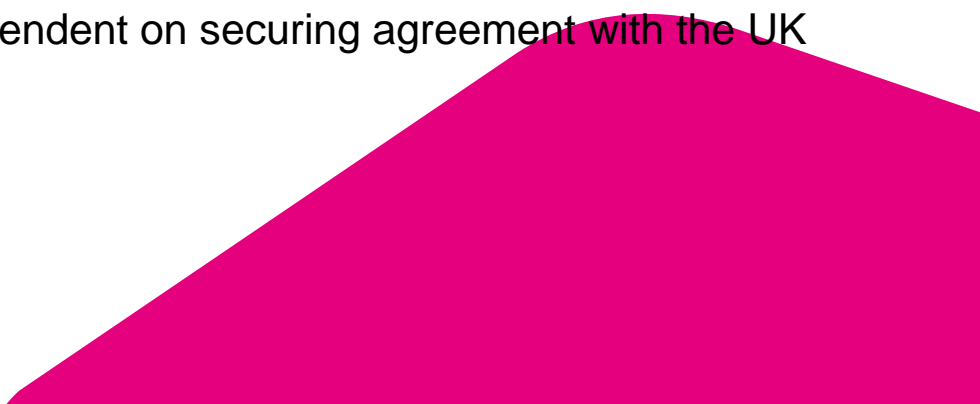
# Young Carer Grant

From 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019.

- New yearly payment of £300 for young carers aged 16 to 18 who live in Scotland. It is a cash benefit to spend on as they choose and they can apply if in school, further education, employed or unemployed.
  - Must be providing care on average of 16 hours per week for the last 3 months. This could be physical, mental or emotional support.
  - The person they are caring for must be on a qualifying benefit.
  - They cannot be caring for the person as a volunteer.
  - They are not paid to provide care for the person in the application.
  - Does not affect other benefits, but they must not have received or applied for Carer's Allowance to be eligible.
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# Job Start Payment

From 2020.

- Moving into work after being unemployed for a long period can be hard for young people.
  - Introducing Job Start will make this easier by providing much needed financial support of £250 or £400 for 16-24 year olds to help with the initial costs of starting work. The higher amount is for people with children.
  - Care leavers will be eligible for Job Start earlier, as soon as they are in receipt of a qualifying benefit (rather than after 6 months).
  - Care leavers will also be eligible for one year longer than other young people (until their 26<sup>th</sup> birthday).
  - The proposals in the consultation are dependent on securing agreement with the UK Government
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# Medical Assessments

Assessments are currently required for Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Personal Independence Payment.


We will begin to take new claims for Disability Assistance for Children and Young People in summer 2020.

The Cabinet Secretary made an announcement in September 2018 that committed to the following:


- We will seek to reduce the need for face to face assessments as much as possible;
- Under the Scottish Government system clients will be given greater choice and control over their assessment.
- Clients will be invited at a time that suits them, to a location that suits them and for those with difficulty travelling, the assessor will come to them.
- Audio recordings of all assessments will be standard.

# Scottish Child Payment

From 2020.

- Low income families will be able to apply for a new £10 a week payment for every child aged 0-6 for applications in autumn 2020, with the first payments reaching families by Christmas. It will be rolled out in full to eligible families by the end of 2022.
  - Once fully rolled out, the benefit could help up to 410,000 eligible under 16's and lift 30,000 children out of poverty.
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# Equality Outcomes consultation

- The consultation on our draft equality outcomes opened 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019 and we are seeking people's views.
  - These outcomes will set out the practical steps we will take to ensure we are treating all groups of people in Scotland fairly.
  - We are asking our clients and stakeholders for their thoughts to make sure that the outcomes are right for a new and growing organisation.
  - We also want to make sure that the outcomes are clear and measurable.
  - The consultation closes on Thursday 6th February 2020.
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Dignity, fairness, respect.

We put the people first. We believe in every person's right to a social security system that helps them live a fairer life.

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## Next Steps:

- Recruitment in 2020.
- Stakeholder Engagement – National & Local.
- Designing our local presence.
- Review and improve.
- Incremental delivery of new benefits.



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