

Timeline: Devolved and new Scottish social security payments

This briefing has been produced to provide a summary for carers and people working with carers on the new devolved social security payments and when it is intended each will be introduced. It also includes details of those social security payments that have already been introduced – Carers Allowance Supplement, the three Best Start payments and the Funeral Support Payment. It also includes new young carers non cash support through Young Scot.

We have provided details of all payments, rather than those just specifically for disabled people and carers. This is because some carers e.g. parents with children may be able to benefit from these.

2018

- **Carers Allowance Supplement** – introduced 2018. This is Carer's Allowance Supplement is payable to carers in receipt of Carer's Allowance on set qualifying dates. Each payment in 2019/20 is £226.20 and covers 6 months. The qualifying dates are in April and October with payments in June and December.
- **Best Start Pregnancy and Baby Payment** (this replaces the Sure Start Maternity Grant and has three elements – 2 of which have been introduced in 2019) – introduced December 2018
This provides eligible families with £600 on the birth of their first child and £300 on the birth of any subsequent children. The application window from 24 weeks pregnant to 6 months after the birth, giving parents longer to apply. **NB: registrars will ask parents if they have applied when they register the birth.** www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant/

2019

From 29th April

- **Best Start Grant Early Learning Payment** is a new £250 payment to help with the costs of early learning when a child is between 2 and 3½ years old.

From 3rd June

- **Best Start School Age Payment** is a new £250 payment to help with the costs of preparing for school around the time a child might start Primary 1.

From 14th June

- **Young Scot: Young Carers package** is a package of opportunities and discounts for young carers aged between 11 and 18. They have to apply for a Young Scot national entitlement card and the additional entitlements are loaded on. www.carersuk.org/scotland/help-and-advice/social-security/young-carers-entitlement-package

From 16th September 2019

- **Funeral Support Payment** replaces the DWP Funeral Payment and helps pay for funeral costs for people who live in Scotland where they or their partner is getting certain benefits or tax credit. The payment is available towards funeral costs of people of all ages, including babies who are stillborn. www.mygov.scot/funeral-support-payment

Autumn 2019 (date to be confirmed)

- **Young Carer Grant**
This is a £300 grant for 16 to 18 year olds who care for 16 hours or more each week, but who do not receive Carer's Allowance. www.carersuk.org/scotland/help-and-advice/social-security/young-carers-grant

2020

Summer 2020

- **Disability Assistance for Children and Young People**
The first disability entitlement to open to new claimants will be disability assistance for children and young people. Eligibility for this payment will be extended to those up to age 18, as opposed to the current age limit of 16.
- Changes will also be made to ensure that children who receive the highest care component of disability assistance are entitled to **winter heating assistance** too.
- In 2020/21 young carers in receipt of the Young Carers Grant will also receive **free bus travel**.

2021

Early 2021

- **Disability Assistance for Older People**
This will be introduced in 2021 for new claims. This is slightly delayed from the intended date of end of 2020 to allow for the introduction of the new Child Payment.
- A **new payment** will be introduced for an estimated 1800 Scottish Carers who **look after more than 1 disabled child**, recognising the higher costs they face.
- **Disability Assistance for Working Age People.**
The largest and most complex form of disability assistance will be introduced. Social Security Scotland's will start to take new claims service for this which will replace Personal Independence Payment. Arrangements will also be made to transfer people to Social Security Scotland who have a time limited award that falls into this period.

Mid 2021

- **Scottish Child Payment** will be introduced. It will pay families £10 per week per eligible child under the age of 16, with entitlement based on receipt of existing qualifying benefits. This will start with all eligible children under 6. An estimated 170,000 children in around 140,000 households will be eligible for the Scottish Child Payment in this age group. www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-child-payment-factsheet

End of 2021

- Social Security Scotland will start paying **winter heating assistance** in its current form to **eligible older people in Scotland** who receive another type of payment from the agency.
- The agency will also make the first payments for **cold spell heating assistance** too.

2022

Early 2022

- **Scottish Carers Allowance**

Social Security Scotland will process new claims for Scottish Carers Allowance. This has been slightly delayed from the intended date of the end of 2021 to allow for the introduction of the new Scottish Child Payment.

- **Scottish Child Payment** will be fully rolled out in 2022 for all children under age of 16, with entitlement based on receipt of existing qualifying benefits. An estimated 410,000 children will be eligible for the benefit.

2024-25

With respect to moving people's existing claims for Attendance Allowance, Disability Benefits, Personal Independence Payment and Carer's Allowance, to the new system administered by Social Security Scotland, the Cabinet Secretary stated her expectation that the majority of people would be transferred by 2024, with all cases fully transferred by 2025. This has been pushed back from 2023/2024 to allow for the introduction of the new Scottish Child Payment.

Contacts and Further Information

If you require further information about any of this, please contact:

- Fiona Collie, Policy Manager at Carers Scotland fiona.collie@carerscotland.org.

You can also find information on our Scotland specific help and advice pages at www.carersuk.org/scotland/help-and-advice/social-security.

There is also a range of information and the latest news on social security in Scotland is available on both the Scottish Government and Social Security Scotland's websites.

- Scottish Government Social Security www.gov.scot/policies/social-security
- Social Security Scotland www.socialsecurity.gov.scot



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