

Update from Fiona Boubert, Local Delivery Relationship Lead, Social Security Scotland

I have recently taken over the lead for Local Delivery in Edinburgh from Melanie Nairn. If you would like to know more about Social Security Scotland and Local Delivery please get in contact.:

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Updates on some of our benefits:

Job Support Payment

It's a one off payment of £250 available to young people in Scotland who are on certain benefits, and need help with the costs of starting a new job. If the person has a child, they could get £400.

Eligibility:

16 to 24 years old; or are a care leaver aged 16 to 25

live in Scotland on the day of the job offer and they have a job offer for paid employment, it does not need to be a permanent job.

the job must average 12 hours or more per week, over a 4 week period.

Be out of paid work and in receipt of a qualifying benefit for 6 months or more, or if a care leaver out of paid work and in receipt of a qualifying benefit at the time of the job offer

Qualifying benefits are: Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), Income Support, Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and Universal Credit (UC)

They have up to 3 months from getting their job offer to apply.

Evidence required; confirmation of the job offer. This can be a text message, a letter, or an email from the employer. We'll accept photocopies.

Child Winter Heating Assistance

From 23 November 2020, the Scottish Government will introduce a new payment named Child Winter Heating Assistance. Child Winter Heating Assistance is an annual payment of £200 designed to assist with heating costs for children and young people up to the age of 18 years old who receive the highest care component of Disability Living Allowance for Children. This payment is automatically paid in to the same account that Disability Living Allowance is paid and payments will arrive in bank accounts from 27 November and within approximately 2 weeks. To qualify for the first payment, you must be in receipt of this benefit between 21 September 2020 to 27 September 2020.

Scottish Child Payment

The new Scottish Child Payment, opened early for applications on 9th November 2020. Low income families with a child under six will be able to apply for £10 per eligible child, per week. The first payments begin from the end of February 2021 and are made every four weeks. This is equivalent to £520 per year.

Applicants must be in receipt of: Child Tax Credit, Income Support, Pension Credit, Working Tax Credit, Universal Credit, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA).

If you were unable to get a place on our Roadshows please get in touch if you would like me to deliver a virtual presentation to your organisation or alternatively I can send you the presentation slides if you prefer.

We remain committed to rolling out the benefit to families with children under 16, planned for the end 2022. More information and how to apply can be found at [Scottish Child Payment](#).

Best Start Grant School Age Payment

Reminder about Best Start Grant School Age Payment. It is a £250 payment made around the time a child normally starts Primary 1 to help with the costs of a child starting school. You may be eligible if you are the parent or carer of the child, and you get certain benefits or tax credits. * Universal Credit (UC), Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income related Employment and Support Allowance, Pension Credit, Housing Benefit, Child Tax Credit (CTC) and Working Tax Credit.

If you are under 18 you are automatically eligible and don't have to be on a qualifying benefit. You would also be eligible if you are 18 or 19, in full time education or training and dependent on someone else like a parent or carer who is claiming child benefit, child tax credit, pension credit or universal credit for you.

For children who would normally start school this August you can apply from 1 June 2020 to 28 February 2021. It is claimed in the year the child is eligible to start school, they don't need to attend school and can be home schooled and if school has been deferred until next year they should still claim within the application period this year.

More Information

You can find more information on all our benefits here:

<https://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/benefits>

You will find information on our Guidance and Stakeholder Resources (Factsheets, Flyers, Posters and Social Media posts here:

<https://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/guidance-resources>

You can sign up for our Stakeholder Newsletters here:

<https://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/about>

Clients can contact us on 0800 182 2222 or by web chat Monday to Friday 8-6

Stakeholder Toolkit – Case Studies Needed

Social Security Scotland are pulling together a Stakeholder Toolkit. This will include a newsletter article and social media post and will feature case studies of people we have supported.

It would be great if we could find case studies of people who we have supported from local authority areas across Scotland. I wondered if you are aware of anyone who would be willing to share their story on receiving our payments ?

This is the information we would ideally be looking for:

- Name
- Age
- Where do they live?
- What payment did they receive?
- How did this make a difference to their lives?
- What did they use the money for?
- Would they mind providing a photograph of themselves?
- We would also ask them to complete a consent form to use their photograph

Please get in contact if you can assist with this or would like to ask further questions regarding it.