



WELFARE RIGHTS ADVICE IN NORTH AYRSHIRE

NORTH AYRSHIRE



Health &amp; Social Care Partnership

## Money Matters Update No 3

### 16/02/21

#### Scottish Child Payment starts

More than 77,000 Scottish Child Payment applications have been received since Social Security Scotland started taking applications on 9 November.

The new benefit, which is unique to Scotland, will give qualifying parents and carers £40 every four weeks for each child under six. The benefit started on 15<sup>th</sup> February, meaning that Social Security Scotland is now able to do final eligibility checks and start issuing decisions.

The first decisions and payments will arrive from later this month.

Parents and carers have not yet applied and have a child under six are encouraged to apply asap

People who apply after 15<sup>th</sup> February will have their payment calculated from the day that they apply.

Scottish Child Payment has been introduced ahead of schedule for children under six by building on the existing infrastructure for Best Start Grant payments. The payment is planned to be fully rolled out to children under the age of 16 by the end of 2022. This is subject to data on qualifying benefits being received from the DWP to enable Social Security Scotland to make top-up payments.

#### Background

- Application numbers are the latest figures available and correct as of Sunday 7 February.



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- People, who supplied their mobile number, will be kept up to date on the progress of their application by text.
- People who apply from Tuesday 16 February onwards will have their payment calculated from the day that they apply.
- Scottish Child Payment together with the three Best Start Grant payments and Best Start Foods could give families on low incomes up to £5,200 by the time their first child turns six.
- People can apply by visiting [mygov.scot/benefits](https://mygov.scot/benefits) or calling 0800 182 2222.
- Scottish Child Payment is a new benefit and it is in addition to the UK wide Child Benefit.
- **To get advice on what benefits may be available parents and carers can access free, confidential advice through Money Matters Advice Line on 01293 310456**

### **Deadline to claim the Warm Home Discount**

The Warm Home Discount (Core Group) provides a £140 rebate on electricity bills to claimants who get the Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit and are a named account holder with a participating energy supplier.

Most eligible claimants will receive the Warm Home Discount (WHD) automatically from their energy supplier, but those who have received a letter advising them to contact the WHD Helpline to claim the rebate, must call by 26th February 2021 (telephone 0800 917 1003).



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WHD (Broader Group) rebates may also be available, direct from energy suppliers for recipients of certain other benefits.

For full details of eligibility and further information on how to claim visit [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

### Post Office Card Accounts to end

DWP is writing to all claimants who currently receive their State Pension or benefit payments into a Post Office card account (POCa). The letter informs them the POca service is closing and asks them to provide alternative account details.

DWP customer service centre Telephone: 0800 085 7133 is available to take calls from POca claimants, to accept new account details or answer any questions. See contact numbers below. They will ensure all future payments are switched to the claimants new account from the next available payment date and there will be no interruptions with their payments.

For anyone who is unable to open a different type of account or provide new account details, a payment exception service will be available.

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