

# Managed Migration

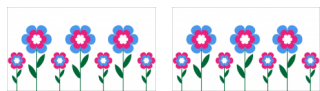
**In this Spring issue:**

**Read on to find out more!**

**Page 2 Adult Disability  
Payment  
Cost of Living**

**Page 3 Best Start Grants  
Child Trust Fund**

**Page 4 Scottish  
Carer's Payment  
Performance**



Managed migration is where people getting legacy benefits will have their claims transferred to Universal Credit (UC). At present, only people in receipt of tax credits only are being migrated onto UC, however, from 1st April 2024, claimants who receive Income Support will also start to receive Migration Notices from the DWP. Claimants who receive HB, JSA and other benefits will start to get their migration letters later in the year.

Managed migration is expected to be complete by March 2025 for most people. People who get Employment and Support Allowance and do not get tax credits are expected to move to Universal Credit by 2028.

Over the next few years, everyone on Income Support, income-related ESA, income-based JSA, and Housing Benefit will be receiving this notice. People who get ESA and don't get any other benefits will probably be the last to be moved over.

Look out for a letter called a 'Universal Credit Migration Notice' from the DWP. Tax Credit claimants will receive this letter from the DWP with a HMRC logo. This notice letter is important as it will tell you that your existing benefits are stopping, and you need to make a claim for Universal Credit. It will also tell you what you need to do and by when.

You might get a leaflet telling you to get ready for Universal Credit – if the letter you get doesn't have a deadline on it, it isn't your migration notice. You'll need to wait until you get a proper migration notice, as otherwise, you won't be considered for the 'transitional element' to make sure that you don't end up with less UC than you would have .

If you are still in receipt of 'legacy benefits'- tax credits, income support, job seekers allowance, employment and support allowance, and housing benefit- you may soon get a letter from the DWP advising you that your benefits are coming to an end. This is because these benefits are being phased out, and replaced by Universal Credit. The letter from the DWP should advise you of the date that you need to claim Universal Credit by, to ensure that you do not get less on UC than you did on your old benefits.

If your Universal Credit entitlement is less than your entitlement to your legacy benefits, you will get a 'transitional amount' to top up your Universal Credit.

If you get a Managed Migration Notice, please contact the Welfare Rights Service for specialist advice.



**UC** *Universal  
Credit*

# Adult Disability Payment

People who are still in receipt of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) or Disability Living Allowance are continuing to be moved across to the new Adult Disability Payment (ADP) from Social Security Scotland. People in Scotland making a new claim can no longer claim PIP and instead will need to claim ADP. When you are transferred from DLA/PIP to ADP, you will be sent a review form to complete. You should get a letter from PIP/DLA telling you the date that your benefit is going to stop, and then you will fall under to Social Security system, and a welcome letter from Social Security Scotland. You should see no change in your benefit award, and should be paid on the same day as normal. The only change that you should notice is in your bank statements– rather than DWP PIP/DLA, it will have ADP show up as the payment.

If you have had no changes to your care needs, you can sign the declaration and send it back to Social Security Scotland without completing the full form. However, if you feel that things *have* changed, then you can complete the form, telling Social Security what is different about your health and care needs. You will continue to be paid your ADP at the same rate as your DLA/PIP until a new decision is made.

We are aware that this is a large backlog in processing claims by Social Security Scotland, with the average waiting time for a decision to be around 8 months. Whilst this is frustrating, please be aware that any money awarded will be backdated to when you made your initial claim (if you were making a new claim) or from the date of change of when you report the change (although there are exceptions to this).

If you are worried about how long your claim is taking to be processed, you can contact the Welfare Rights Team for further support.



## Cost of Living Support

The final Cost-of-living Payment of £299 should have been issued to claimants who were in receipt of UC, IS, JSA, ESA, Pension Credit and tax credits by 22nd February 2024. You will automatically qualify for the Cost-Of-Living Payment from the DWP if you were in receipt of one of these benefits between 13th November 2023 and 12 December 2023. If you think you have not been paid your Cost-Of-Living Payment despite qualifying you can report the payment as missing to the DWP through their online portal: <https://secure.dwp.gov.uk/report-a-missing-cost-of-living-payment/welcome> and they will look into this for you.

In the meantime, we are still able to refer people to the food and fuel bank for support. We are applying for funding to be able to continue to issue emergency food & fuel vouchers, as well as trying to secure more funding to be able to provide more household basics packs to tenants, like we did last year.

If you're struggling to make ends meet, contact the Welfare Rights team as we can carry out a benefit check to make sure you're getting all the benefits that you may be entitled to, as well as refer you for emergency support.

# Scottish Best Start

Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods are payments that help towards the costs of being pregnant or looking after a child. They're part of the 5 family payments you may be able to get from Social Security Scotland, along with Scottish Child Payment (worth £25 per child)

From 26th February **Best Start Foods vouchers** have been extended to include more families by no longer having income checks. As long as you are pregnant, or looking after a child under 3 years old, and either you or your partner in receipt of a qualifying benefit (UC, Tax Credits, JSA, ESA, IS, Pension Credit & Housing Benefit)

The Three Best Start Grants are:

**Pregnancy & Baby Grant** is a one-off payment of £ 707.25 for your first child, and £353.65 for any subsequent children.

**Early learning Payment** is a payment of £294.70 for each child aged between 2 years old and 3 years 6 months old. You can spend the money on any of the things you need for your child at this age. This includes toys to help them learn, or trips to new places.

**School Age Payment** is a payment of £294.70 for each child you can get the payment for. When you need to apply for the School Age Payment depends on when your child was born:

Your child's date of birth	When you can apply
Between 1 March 2018 and 28 February 2019	Between 1 June 2023 and 28 February 2024
Between 1 March 2019 and 29 February 2020	Between 1 June 2024 and 29 February 2025

You can only apply for School Age Payment between these dates; you cannot apply for your child out with these dates.

If you are unsure if you are entitled to any of the benefits mentioned above, or would like more information about them, please get in touch with either Morag or Heather!

# Child Trust Fund

A Child Trust Fund is a long-term tax-free savings account for children born between 1 September 2002 and 2 January 2011. The Child Trust Fund Scheme closed on 2nd January 2011, but you can pay up to £9,000 per year into your child's Trust Fund until they reach 18 years old.

If your child is under 18 and born after 2nd January 2011, you can open a Junior ISA (Individual Savings Account) instead.



On your child's 18th Birthday, the Fund matures, meaning that no more money can be added, and your child takes over the account automatically. They can then either transfer the money to an adult ISA, or take the money out, and their account is closed. The Child Trust Fund should write to your child directly about their Trust Fund once they are 18. Otherwise, you can contact HMRC whilst they are under 18, or use their online tool to find the Fund.

# Carer's Allowance is Changing!

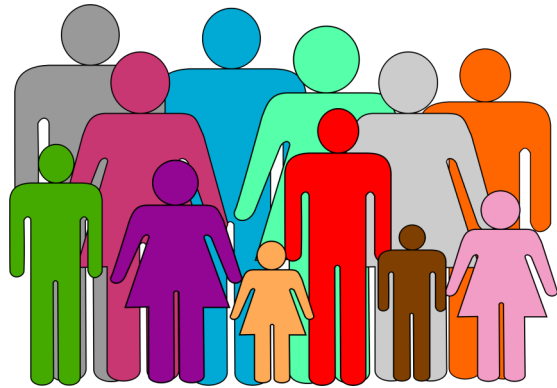
A new benefit called Carer Support Payment will replace Carer's Allowance in Scotland. This is planned to happen between February 2024 and spring 2025 as part of Scottish devolution. Your benefit will move from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to Social Security Scotland if you:

- get Carer's Allowance
- live in Scotland

**You do not need to apply for Carer Support Payment.** If you get Carer's Allowance, you do not need to apply for Carer Support Payment. DWP and Social Security Scotland will move your benefit for you.

If you do not already get Carer's Allowance, you may be able to claim Carer's Support Payment from Social Security Scotland. The qualifying criteria is the same for both benefits: you must care for the person you are claiming for, for at least 35 hours per week, they have to be in receipt of a qualifying disability benefit such as DLA, ADP, PIP or AA, and you earn less than the weekly threshold of £139.

There'll be no gap in your award and the amount you get will stay the same. DWP will continue to pay you until Social Security Scotland start to pay you. If you get Carer's Allowance Supplement, you'll still get payments twice a year.



DWP will send you a letter to say when your benefit will move to Social Security Scotland. This is planned to happen between February 2024 and spring 2025. Social Security Scotland will send you a letter to say what's happening during the move. They'll send you another letter when the move is complete and your Carer Support Payment has started. If you have any questions, please get in touch with the Welfare Rights Service!

As you may know we keep a record of the extra money people have received as a result of using our advice services. Since the service came into being in the area in 2005 we have generated:

**£8,274,363.51**

from increased income, lump sum grants and a reduction in debts.

For the financial year 2023/24 alone, so far the figure is

**£437,819.66**

## Performance figures

It is important that we keep a record of these figures, so if we helped you to claim a benefit, or just helped sort out your claim, please remember to let us know the outcome so we can update our records.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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