



Lothian Disability News

Autumn 2018

The Social Security Act (Scotland) received Royal Assent in June 2018 which means Scotland has its own powers to administer a range of disability and carer benefits. Work is underway already to set up the system to deliver these benefits, and the new Carers Allowance Supplement has been in place since September 2018 (please see page 10 for more details). New Best Start Grants come into place from December 2018, which are replacing Sure Start Grants for low income families.



In total Scotland will eventually have responsibility for 10 existing benefits, including Personal Independence Payment (PIP), Attendance Allowance and Carers Allowance, and a new benefit for younger carers.

'Experience Panels' have been set up by the Scottish Government so that people with lived experience of the benefits system can influence the development and the workings of the new **Scottish Social Security Agency**.

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Lothian Disability News is produced by Grapevine Disability Information service on behalf of Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living (LCiL).

This publication is available in a range of formats, including large print, audio and braille.

For more information please contact LCiL on 0131 475 2350 or email:

grapevine@lothiancil.org.uk

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Postal address for main office: LCiL, Norton Park, 57 Albion Road, Edinburgh, EH7 5QY



Rights & choices for disabled people,
people with long-term conditions and older
people in Edinburgh and Lothian.

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This is one of the key ways disabled people and people with long term conditions are having an input to make sure the system works better for people compared to the existing one.

From the beginning, Scottish Ministers have said the agency and its systems have to be based on key principles ensuring **dignity, fairness and respect**. Enshrined in the legislation is that benefit claimants have access to **independent advocacy and advice services** as part of their benefit journey and the new system encourages take up of entitlements where a person is eligible. In addition, it has to work towards ensuring its communications are inclusive of a range of impairment groups and minorities, and that it is accountable to the Scottish public. Recently it was announced that the new Scottish benefits system will not ‘contract out’ assessments to independent providers as has happened with the UK system.

What is clear is that much work has to be done to set up a system that is fit for purpose. This process, however, should mark an important step for disabled people, people with long term conditions, older people and those who support them, by developing a system that is more personalised and treats people with more respect than has sometimes been the case under, previous systems.

Grapevine and LCiL are engaging with Scottish Government officials to ensure that smaller, more specialist, independent services who support disabled people and people with long term conditions, can be part of the new system, and are resourced to ensure the rights of disabled people and people with long-term conditions are upheld through the benefits system.

LCiL's Independent Impact Report

October saw the launch of LCiL's Independent Impact Report during a special event with disabled people, people with long term conditions and older people, as well as key partners of our organisation.

The Impact Report, and accompanying short film, feature service users, staff and board members talking about the organisation and its services, and how this makes a difference in their everyday lives.

What makes LCiL different can be summarised in 6 factors:

- It is a disabled people's organisation run by and for disabled people.

LCiL Impact Report Event 24/10/18



- Its breadth of expertise: disability-specific, not condition-specific.
- It is a 'one stop shop'.
- Its consistency and integrity over time.
- Its knowledge and understanding of what matters.
- Help is always there on the end of a phone.

Aimed at anyone who wants to get a better understanding and insight into LCiL, the Impact Report can be downloaded in various formats below and short film can be accessed via LCiL's website at: <http://www.lothiancil.org.uk/about-lothian-cil/lcils-impact-report/>

Here you can also find an **Executive Summary** (4 page document) and the **Full digital report** (40 page document) with interactive links to short clips of service users and staff in film format.

If you require a printed version please get in touch with us directly on 0131 475 2350/email: admin@lothiancil.org.uk or you can [Contact Us via our website at: www.lothiancil.org.uk](http://www.lothiancil.org.uk)

Universal Credit in Edinburgh 2018

Universal Credit is being introduced in Edinburgh for anyone making a new claim for a means-tested or low income benefit from the end of November 2018. Universal Credit replaces a number of benefits including: Income Support, Income related Employment Support Allowance (ESA), Income related Job Seekers Allowance (JSA), working tax credits and child tax credits.

Universal Credit has to be applied for online at: <https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit> and will combine these means-tested benefits into one monthly payment. Some measures are being introduced to make it easier for some people to manage payments e.g. split payments every two weeks, or housing benefit being paid directly to social landlords to cover rental costs.

Anyone making a claim for Universal Credit has to sign a Claimant Commitment, which sets out conditions a claimant has to meet before they are paid Universal Credit, including whether they have to look for work or not. This is agreed with a Job Coach at Job Centre Plus and it's vital that it reflects a person's needs and circumstances. In some cases, where a person has a long term health condition or impairment, which prevents them from working, it can be 'switched-off'.

Although Grapevine will not be able to assist people make claims in person, at this point in time, we have produced a clear and detailed summary about what people need to know before making a claim and what support is available to make a claim.

If you, or someone you know would like a copy of this Factsheet and want to know more about Universal Credit and what support is available in Edinburgh you can contact Grapevine on 0131 475 2370 (Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm or email: grapevine@lothiancil.org.uk) You can also download the factsheet form our E-library in the Grapevine section by visiting: www.lothiancil.org.uk

Personal Independence Payment (PIP update)

At the start of the year, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) decided not to challenge a court ruling that said changes to Personal Independence Payment (PIP) were unfair to people affected by mental health problems.

Last year, the DWP went ahead, despite widespread criticism, and changed the descriptors for the mobility component of PIP. Specifically in relation to **Planning and Following a journey**, it removed grounds for people to receive the enhanced rate of the mobility component if they were unable to travel independently on the grounds of psychological distress, as opposed to other conditions.

Estimates now suggest that around 220,000 people, could have lost out because of this change, and may be entitled to more money under PIP. The DWP are now conducting a review of existing information they hold and have stated they will contact the claimant and/or their doctor if they require more information about a claimant's award for PIP.

Meantime the Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work (Sarah Newton) stated in the UK Parliament: "the individuals affected, and all payments will be back-dated to the effective date in each individual claim...and there will be no face-to-face reassessments of awards."

(See source: <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2018-01-30/debates/F35E85CB-FF67-467E-AD63-1C13EB1EC32B/PIPBackPayments>)

Grapevine can assist people living in Edinburgh with their PIP forms based on our available appointments. We strongly suggest that anyone going through the PIP process should attempt to gather recent and consistent evidence to support their claim form, as this tends to help at assessment stage. Examples may include:

- ✓ Letter of diagnosis
- ✓ Letters summarising condition(s) from doctor/nurse.
- ✓ Prescription list

- ✓ Pictures of conditions
- ✓ Current Occupational Therapy (OT) reports
- ✓ Current OT letter indicating use of aids
- ✓ Evidence from support workers
- ✓ Special Needs report
- ✓ Current Psychiatric reports
- ✓ Current Carer's assessments



If you or someone you know lives in Edinburgh and requires further information and advice in relation to their PIP claim please contact Grapevine on 0131 475 2370 (Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm) or email: grapevine@lothiancil.org.uk

Christmas Processing Date for Payroll Service Users



Due to the large number of payrolls to be processed prior to Christmas, we would appreciate your assistance in making sure that your timesheets arrive on the following dates, this will depend on your 'Run' number (see below).

- **Run 1:** timesheets due by Monday 10th December 2018. This should include estimated hours up to the normal cut-off date of Saturday

15th December.

- **Run 2:** timesheets due by Monday 17th December 2018. This should include estimated hours up to the normal cut-off date of Saturday 29th December.
- **Run 3:** timesheets due by Monday 10th December 2018. This should include hours up to the normal cut-off date of Saturday 8th December.
- **Run Cs:** timesheets due by Monday 17th December 2018. This should include estimated hours up to the normal cut-off date of the Saturday 22th December.
- **Run Ds:** timesheets due by Monday 17th December 2018. This should include estimated hours up to the normal cut-off date of the Saturday 29th December.
- Any adjustments can be made in January if necessary for any payroll run. If you need to speak to the Payroll Team about Christmas processing, please contact us on 0131 475 2350.



Remember to submit your timesheets on dates given to avoid disappointment.

Please note: Payroll along with other services based at LCIl will be officially closed from 12 noon on Monday 24th December to 10am on Thursday 3rd January 2019



PA employer peer support group

Are you an employer of Personal Assistants (PAs) living in Edinburgh and the Lothians?

Do you want to:

- Meet other PA employers?
- Share learning & experiences?
- Get the best out of your PA support arrangements?
- Build your knowledge, skills and confidence making it easier for yourself as an employer?

Then come along to our new PA employer peer support group!

The group is open to all PA employers, both disabled people and those managing PAs on behalf of someone else.

Where and When

12 noon – 3pm (with lunch provided)

Wed 5th December 2018

Simpson Room, Norton Park, 57 Albion Road, Edinburgh, EH7 5QY

Lunch and refreshments are provided by us, and if needed we can organise and pay for transport if you live in Edinburgh or the Lothian's.

To find out more and to book, contact:

Lisa Milburn at LCIl on **0131 475 2350/2510** or email lisa.milburn@lothiancil.org.uk

Edinburgh Networking and Peer Support Group

The Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living (LCiL) hosts a networking and peer support group for disabled people and people with long term conditions that have attended LCiL training courses and workshops. The networking and peer support group will give you the opportunity to:

- ◆ Meet other people
- ◆ Discuss issues and share information
- ◆ Find out practical information, resources and information on who to ask
- ◆ Develop skills and build confidence
- ◆ Hear from guest speakers and organisations on a range of topics

When: Once a month, alternating Tuesdays & Thursdays.
10.30am -12.30pm. Lunch from 12:30pm.

The next date for 2018 is Tuesday 11th December

Where: The Training Suite, Norton Park Conference Centre, 57 Albion Road, Edinburgh, EH7 5QY

Lunch and Refreshments are provided. To let us know you would like to attend or find out more information about the peer support group, contact Lisa Milburn LCiL on 0131 475 2510 or email lisa.milburn@lothiancil.org.uk

West Lothian Networking and Peer Support Group

The Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living (LCiL) in partnership with Disability West Lothian are setting up a networking and peer support group for disabled people and people with long term conditions who live in West Lothian. The networking and peer support group will give you the opportunity to:

- ◆ Meet other people
- ◆ Discuss issues and share information
- ◆ Find out practical information, resources and information on who to ask
- ◆ Develop skills and build confidence
- ◆ Hear from guest speakers and organisations on a range of topics

When: The meetings take place on the first Thursday of every month, and run from 10.30-12.30 followed by lunch. The next date for 2018 will be on Thursday 6th December – Ability Centre, Livingston. Lunch and refreshments are provided and transport can be arranged for people who live in West Lothian. To let us know you would like to attend or find out more information about the peer support group, contact Lisa Milburn at LCiL on 0131 475 2510 or email:

lisa.milburn@lothiancil.org.uk

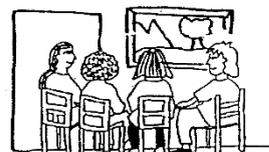
Are you a parent or carer living in Edinburgh?

The Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living (LCiL) facilitates a peer support group for parents and carers of disabled children and young people and children and young people with additional support needs.

The group is facilitated so parents and carers can share experiences, support each other and set discussion topics.

What will I get from attending?

- Meet other parents and carers
- Explore ideas and opportunities around support
- Find out practical information and resources
- Develop skills and build confidence
- Hear from guest speakers and organisations on a range of topics



Each meeting aims to be relaxed & informal with time to talk to each other & share information.

The group meets **once a month**, alternating Monday and Thursdays, 10.30am - 1.30pm.

Lunch Included.

Next meeting date:

Monday 17th December

Where: Norton Park Conference Centre, 57 Albion Road Edinburgh EH7 5QY

For more information and/or to book a place/inform of access or dietary needs, contact Lisa Milburn on 0131 475 2350/2510

Let's tell it like it is – The L*Ci*L Champions programme



We are recruiting volunteer champions

Would you like to learn new skills, do new things and meet new people?

Would you like to influence policy and practice and make sure that the voice of disabled people is heard?

LCiL Champions are volunteers who share their lived experience at conferences, events or training programmes, or become members of working groups or committees.

We are recruiting **five people** to join the Champions programme. Champions are disabled people, people with long term conditions and parent carers who are involved with LCiL.

Do you have experience of self-directed support, such as?

- Assessments and support planning
- Directing your support package, or your child's support
- Being a pa employer

We will provide new champions with training and support – each new champion will have a member of LCiL staff as a Buddy, and the champions meet together regularly as a peer support group.

To **register your interest or find out more** please contact **0131 475 2350**

Human Rights: What's next for Scotland? Report

In August 2017, the United Nations Committee reviewed how well the UK is performing on disability rights and how it is meeting its obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The Committee set out recommendations for the UK, including Scotland, in their 'Concluding Observations' report which was published in October 2017.

On 6 March 2018, Inclusion Scotland and People First Scotland, with the Equality and Human Rights Commission and the Scottish Human Rights Commission held a conference in Edinburgh and Inverness. Over 120 people attended.

You can read the report of the Conference 'What Next for Scotland?' here: <http://inclusionScotland.org/uncrpd-event-report/>

It explains what Deaf and disabled people thought about the UN Committee's concluding observations and about what needs to happen in Scotland so that we can enjoy our rights.

The report is a resource for Deaf and disabled people and their Disabled Peoples Organisations (DPOs). It can be used to help achieve improvements in disability rights and to monitor how well the Scottish Government is responding to the UN Committee's concluding observations. The Scottish Government will receive a copy of the report. It's also available in plain English, an Easy Read summary and in British Sign Language (BSL) video format via the link above.

Carer Supplement Payment

Carer's Allowance Supplement is an extra payment for carers in Scotland who are receiving full or partial Carer's Allowance. Unfortunately it won't be paid to those with 'underlying entitlement' to Carer's Allowance.

It is a twice annual payment of £221 paid directly to carers – there is no need for carers to claim this – those eligible will receive a letter directly in advance to let them know when a payment will be made to them (same bank account as their Carers Allowance is paid to). More information about Carers Supplement Allowance is available online at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/carers-allowance-supplement-advice-for-welfare-advisers/> Social Security Scotland, are available on 0800 182 2222.

If you are a carer and require more information contact your local carers centre (see details below)

VOCAL (Edinburgh and Midlothian) 0131 622 6666

Carers of West Lothian 01506 448000

Carers of East Lothian: 0131 665 0135

Support LCIl

This year you can help LCIl support our essential work when you are doing your Christmas shopping. For more information, see below:

Online shoppers can sign up for free to Easy Fundraising via their website www.easyfundraising.org.uk. Select 'Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living' as your chosen charity, every time you purchase something online a small donation (no cost to you) is made to LCIl. This helps support our essential work supporting disabled people, people with long term conditions and older people in Edinburgh and Midlothian, East Lothian and West Lothian.

 easyfundraising.org.uk
feel good shopping

1. Click on the box that says 'Search for a Cause', which is located under the pink 'Join Now' button.
2. Insert Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living.
3. Click on Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living when it appears in a drop down menu.
4. Enter your name, email, make a password and tick the 'Terms and conditions' button.
5. If you pay tax and you want to raise an extra 25p for every pound, with no extra cost to you, tick the 'yes' box to select Gift Aid.
6. Enter your address and postcode.
7. Select 'get the donation reminder' if you want a reminder to pop up on your computer every time you shop online. If you select this, it will need to install on your computer.
8. Click on 'Okay, I've got it' to see your personal page and track how much you've raised!

Your donations will be used to help fund our services, including the Grapevine Advice Line and the Independent Living Team.



LCiL want to thank all our supporters for their support in 2018 and wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. **Please note: Payroll along with other services based at LCIl will be officially closed from 12 noon on Monday 24th December to 10am on Thursday 3rd January 2019.**