

Young Carer Grant

In recognition of the invaluable contribution that young carers make to society the Cabinet Secretary for Social Security, Ms Somerville MSP, has announced that Social Security Scotland will start to deliver the new Young Carer Grant from 8am on Monday 21 October 2019.

The Young Carer Grant is a new yearly cash payment of £300 for 16-18 year olds which carers can spend as they choose. Young carers can claim if they are at school, in further education, employed or unemployed and may be eligible if they meet all of the following criteria:

- They live in Scotland.
- They are 16, 17 or 18 years of age when applying.
- Caring for an average of 16 hours per week, over a 13 week period.
- Care for someone normally paid a qualifying disability benefit.
- They have not applied for or receive Carer's Allowance.
- They are not paid or volunteer to care.

People will be able to apply from 21 October online at <https://www.mygov.scot/benefits/>, or through our Freephone helpline at 0800 182 2222. Our helpline is open Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm. A paper application will also be available and can be requested via our helpline or downloaded direct from our website.

Our communications approach

To help support young carers we want to make sure the take-up of our grant is fully maximised. We would therefore appreciate any support you can offer to help us raise awareness and signpost carers towards Social Security Scotland. To support this we have produced a range of materials and communication products, including posters and social media graphics, specific to the Young Carer Grant which can be used to display in your offices and centres and included in your newsletters. These can be found on our website at <https://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/what-we-do/stakeholder-resources>. The toolkit will be updated as and when new marketing materials are available and has been created for you to share with your employees, stakeholders and the members of the public who you work with.

We are also interested in hearing feedback on how the Young Carer Grant is helping young carers. So if there are any stories that you can share to help us highlight the difference the grant is making, and possibly encourage others to apply, please let our Communications team at Communications@socialsecurity.gov.scot know.

We're also keeping people updated through our social media channels [@SocSecScot](https://twitter.com/SocSecScot) on Twitter and [Social Security Scotland](https://www.facebook.com/SocialSecurityScotland) on Facebook, and would appreciate if you were able to share these posts through your existing communication channels.

In the meantime, if you have a specific need in regards to communications products, please email us on marketingmaterials@socialsecurity.gov.scot and we will look to accommodate this as best we can.

Social Security Scotland's Local Delivery Team will also be on hand to attend events, meetings or staff training opportunities. Please contact us by email at localdelivery@socialsecurity.gov.scot in the first instance and we'll be in touch.

For further information, please visit the following website:
<https://www.mygov.scot/benefits/>