



Social Security Scotland  
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 @SocSecScot

 Social Security Scotland

15 October 2019

Dear Chief Executive

### **Young Carer Grant**

Thank you for your continued support as we build Social Security Scotland. I am pleased to tell you that on Monday 21 October 2019 we will be open for applications for our new benefit, the Young Carer Grant.

Our Young Carer Grant is a new yearly payment of £300 for 16-18 year olds and is in recognition of the invaluable contribution young carers make to society. The benefit is a cash payment 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 [www.mygov.scot/benefits/](http://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.

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. These can be found on our website at

**Dignity, fairness, respect.**

[www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/what-we-do/stakeholder-resources](http://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/what-we-do/stakeholder-resources). The toolkit will be updated as and when new marketing materials are created.

We would be grateful if you could cascade this information to areas within your organisation who may have an interest, such as your education, welfare and social work teams. We will ensure that both your communications teams and our named points of contact also have copies of these materials.

We will continue to communicate our message 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 your organisation was able to share these posts through your existing communication channels. 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](mailto:Communications@socialsecurity.gov.scot) know.

Our Local Delivery Relationship Leads are happy to meet with your teams to provide more information on the Young Carer Grant and all of Social Security Scotland's services. Their contact details are held at [www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/what-we-do/local-delivery/local-delivery-relationship-leads](http://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/what-we-do/local-delivery/local-delivery-relationship-leads). Our wider Local Delivery team can also be contacted at [localdelivery@socialsecurity.gov.scot](mailto:localdelivery@socialsecurity.gov.scot) and are happy to help with any further enquiries you have.

Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Social Security and Older People, is writing separately to elected members.

Thank you again for all of your support in promoting our benefits to date.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Wallace', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Wallace  
Chief Executive  
**Social Security Scotland**