

# Carer Support Payment

15/08/2024

## Carer Support Payment

Carer Support Payment is the replacement for Carer's Allowance in Scotland which was launched and piloted in certain Local Authority areas in November 2023. It will be available in 10 new local authority areas this summer as part of the next phase of the roll-out, starting with North and South Lanarkshire and Angus on 24 June.

From **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August** it will extend to Fife, Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Moray, and North, East and South Ayrshire and be available in the rest of Scotland in November.

This is for new claims, existing recipients of Carers Allowance will have their award automatically transferred.

## Who is eligible?

If you look after someone who is disabled or has a long-term health condition, you may be an unpaid carer.

To qualify for Carers Support Payment you must:

- be 16 or over
- provide 35 hours or more of care a week to someone of any age who is getting certain disability benefits
- earn £151 per week or less on average after some deductions
- live in an area where the benefit is available ( 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024 for Fife residents)

There are differences between Carers Allowance and Carers Support payment and so as part of the take up campaign, we are particularly keen to reach and encourage the following people to complete a benefit check and apply for any new entitlements:

- carers aged 16-19 in full-time "advanced" education (such as university or college), and carers aged over 20 in full-time education at any level.
- The new regulations also now include special backdating rules. This means that carers who are not getting Carer's Allowance but are eligible for Carer Support Payment can have their payments backdated to the date Carer Support Payment first became available. This stops carers missing out on money they are entitled to because they live in an area included in the later phases of the rollout.
- To get their fully backdated payments, carers must apply within 13 weeks of the benefit becoming available in their area. For Fife residents, they need to apply before the 17<sup>th</sup> November.

## How much is Carers Support Payment? Existing Carers Allowance Claims

Carers Support Payment is paid at the same rate as Carers Allowance. This is currently £81.90 per week or £327.60 every 4 weeks.

Those who are in receipt of Carers Support Payment (or still receiving Carers Allowance) on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024 will also be eligible to receive the Carers Supplement of £288.60 usually paid in December.

Carers Supplement is an extra payment for people in Scotland who get Carers Support Payment of Carers Allowance on a particular date. It is paid bi-annually.

## Existing Carers Allowance Claims

People who already receive Carers Allowance will have their award automatically transferred to Carer Support Payment. The amount they receive will not change. Social Security Scotland will write to people in advance to let them know that their award will be moving.

Transfers began in February this year, with all awards expected to be moved by spring 2025.

Any carers premiums included in Universal Credit claims will also be retained when migrated over to the new benefit.

## People can apply directly

To ensure Fife residents are in receipt of their full benefit entitlement, regardless of which agency administers them, use the Fife Benefits Checker on [Cost of Living Support \(fife.scot\)](https://www.fife.scot/costofliving). The system will automatically update to reflect the new benefit in Fife on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August, prior to this date it will still reflect Carers Allowance administered by the DWP.

Help with a benefit check or assistance to apply is available via:

- Booking a cost of living appointment via the website
- Call the Community Support Line on 0800 952 0330, Mon- Fri, 9am-5pm
- Speak to a member of staff at any Fife Council Local Service Centre
- If you are working with a support agency in Fife or have a housing officer, they may also be able to help you apply.

Alternatively, you can apply directly to Social Security Scotland either online by visiting [mygov.scot/carersupport](https://mygov.scot/carersupport), or calling for free on 0800 182 2222 to apply over the phone or book an appointment to apply in-person.