

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CHEST, HEART OR STROKE ILLNESS

Living with a chest, heart or stroke condition can have a major impact on your financial situation. It is important to make sure that you get all the help you need to prevent additional stress and anxiety.

There is support available to help you access this information and complete any relevant forms.

Are you getting all the benefits you are entitled to?

It is important that you receive all the benefits that you are entitled to. Every individual's situation is different and it can be helpful to speak to your social worker, a welfare rights officer, Citizens Advice Bureau, local carers centre or money advice centre.

Benefits you, or someone who cares for you, may be entitled to include:

- Personal Independence Payment (PIP): this has replaced DLA
- Disability Living Allowance (DLA) if you are under 65: if you currently receive DLA then you will be reassessed for PIP. You don't need to do anything: the Department of Work and Pensions will contact you
- Attendance Allowance (AA) if you are over 65
- Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Working Tax Credit
- Jobseeker's Allowance
- Carer's Allowance
- Pension Credit
- Housing Benefit
- Council Tax Reduction
- Universal Credit

Some benefits are 'means tested', i.e. your eligibility will depend on what income and savings you and your spouse / partner have.

Information about all the benefits currently available can be found on the government website: www.gov.uk/financial-help-disabled/disability-and-sickness-benefits

FACTSHEET

CHEST HEART & STROKE SCOTLAND

Rosebery House • 9 Haymarket Terrace • Edinburgh EH12 5EZ

Tel: 0131 225 6963 • Fax: 0131 220 6313 • Advice Line Nurses: 0808 801 0899

Email: advice@chss.org.uk • Website: www.chss.org.uk

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Do you get support at home from the social work (or social care / social services) department?

The Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013 gives you a range of options for how your social care is delivered. Self-directed support aims to give you choice and control over your care: you can decide how much ongoing control and responsibility you want to have over your own support arrangements. Some people will choose to have lots of control over their care and support and some will leave most of the decisions to their local council. Other people may do a bit of both. The important thing is that you have a choice.

There is a lot of information and support available about self-directed support on the website: www.selfdirectedsupportscotland.org.uk

CHSS Personal Support Grants

The aim of the Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland (CHSS) personal support grants programme is to improve the quality of life, independence, mobility and dignity of anyone who has chest, heart or stroke illness, particularly when their illness is causing financial difficulty.

Anyone who has a chest, heart or stroke illness which has resulted in financial hardship, or need, can apply for help.

We will consider funding part of any item or service which cannot be funded in full from other sources (e.g. NHS or social work department).

The following list gives an indication of what may be requested:

- **Aids to daily living and adaptations:** high chairs, specialised chairs, wheelchairs, power packs, computers and other specialist equipment related to disability, including partial help towards cost of adaptations
- **Holidays and respite care**
- **Clothing and bedding**
- **White goods:** cookers, fridges, freezers, washing machines and other electrical household goods
- **Travel:** we also give grants towards the cost of hospital visiting, particularly where children and / or distances are involved
- **General grants:** furniture, furnishings, floor coverings, re-decoration and any other miscellaneous items which fall outwith the other main categories

Grant limits for each category range from £150 – £750; larger grants can be considered under special circumstances.



Applications must be made through a 'sponsor'. This needs to be someone like a social worker, a health professional employed by the NHS (e.g. a hospital doctor or occupational therapist), or in some areas a representative from another voluntary agency (e.g. Citizens Advice Bureau).

Application forms can only be sent out to the sponsor; if you are in doubt about who can sponsor an application, you can contact our Personal Support Grants Administrator for advice by emailing personalgrants@chss.org.uk or phoning 0131 225 6963.

Applications are considered by our grants committee on a weekly basis.

We do not give annual or ongoing benefits or grants to pay for goods or services you have already purchased.

CHSS Benefits Advisers

In some areas CHSS funds benefits advisers who provide advice and information about social security benefits to people in need of assistance.

The contact details for these advisers are:

Ann Young *Benefits Adviser*

Motherwell & Wishaw CAB

32/33 Civic Square, Motherwell ML1 1TP

Tel: 01698 230393

Mob: 07918 081 494

Citizens Advice Scotland (CAS)

CAS is the overall name for the CAB offices in Scotland. CAS offers free, confidential, impartial and independent advice. Trained advisers help people with debt, benefits, employment, housing and many other issues. This advice is available to everyone. Advisers can sometimes arrange home visits. Some CAB offices are only funded to give advice to people living or working in a certain area – usually the local authority area. Please check with the bureau that they are able to help you.

To find out the CAB office nearest to you, visit their website or look up your local phone book. Website: www.cas.org.uk/bureaux

Citizens Advice Direct

Advice from CAB by phone, for people who live or work in Scotland is available from Citizens Advice Direct. The service is available Monday to Friday 9am-8pm and Saturday 10am-2pm.

Tel: 0808 800 9060. This number is **free** from a landline and most, but not all, mobiles. Please check with your service provider.

Useful contacts and websites

Disability Living Allowance Helpline: 08457 123 456

Online benefits calculators

Use an independent benefits calculator to find out:

- what benefits you could get
- how to claim
- how your benefits will be affected if you start work

www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators

Carers Scotland

Advice and support for carers and the people they care for.

Helpline: 0808 808 7777 (Mon-Fri 10-4pm) Email: advice@carersuk.org

Website: www.carerscotland.org

Home Energy Scotland

Scottish Government funded free energy advice, support and grants to help heat your home.

Tel: 0808 808 2282 or 0800 512 012

Website: www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland

National Debtline

The helpline that provides free confidential and independent advice on how to deal with debt problems.

Tel: 0808 808 4000 (Freephone) Monday to Friday 9am-9pm and Saturday 9.30am-1pm

Website: www.nationaldebtline.org

Pension Credit Claim Line

Tel: 0800 99 1234

Website: www.gov.uk/pension-credit

Tax Credits Helpline

Tel: 0345 300 3900

Website: www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits

Age Scotland

Provide information and advice on a range of topics for older people.

Tel: 0845 833 0200 Silverline Scotland: 0800 470 8090

Website: www.ageuk.org.uk/scotland

If you would like to speak to one of our nurses in confidence,
please call the Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland Advice Line Nurses

0808 801 0899

Free from landlines and mobiles.