

Pension, Disability and Carers Service

Department for Work and Pensions

Coalition of Carers in Scotland
Wed 25th Aug 2010

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Strategic Partnership Manager Scotland

PDCS Vision

- “Working together to make lives better”

Our Mission

- “To be an accessible, trusted and efficient service whose people feel valued and energised to respect, understand and fulfil our customers’ needs every day.”

PDCS in Scotland

- 2 Pension Centers; Motherwell & Dundee
- 1 Disability Benefit Centre; Glasgow
 - Staffed by 1279.7 (wte)
- Local Service; delivering ‘face to face’ visiting service, outreach activity and partner engagement
 - Staffed by 173.38 (wte), based in 40 Jobcentre Plus offices and OGD sites

Current Landscape

- Welfare Reform
- Carer's Allowance
- Disability Living Allowance (DLA) – Reform
- Uprating Changes
- Commission on Long-term Care
- DLA/AA – Free Personal Care in Scotland
- State Pension Age
- Housing Benefit

Welfare Reform

“Look at the causes of poverty as opposed to the consequences”

“Work should pay and be seen to pay”

‘21st Century Welfare’

- Consultation paper published 30th July on the future of benefits and tax credits system. Closing date is 1st Oct.
- A new vision for benefits designed to strengthen work incentives and to make the whole system less complex and less difficult

What does this mean?

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) – Reform

- From 2013-14 a more objective assessment
 - Details of how it will work are at the early stages of development
 - Engagement with disabled people and other key representative organisations will help develop proposals
 - We will begin a consultation process on the new benefit including the new objective assessment later this year

Commission on Long-Term Care

- The Government is asking the independent Commission to make recommendations on how to achieve an affordable and sustainable care and support system, for all adults in England
 - The Commission will be in regular contact with the Devolved Administrations as it considers the issues, and to consult them fully on any areas where they have a specific interest

DLA/AA – Free Personal Care in Scotland

- FPC paid at a flat rate of £156 a week for people who are at home or cared for in residential accommodation and do not qualify for means-tested help from their LA with the costs
 - FPC is considered as a contribution from the public or local funds towards the qualifying services provided to residents in care homes therefore, payment of AA or the care component of DLA are withdrawn after 28 days

Sutherland Report

- The provisions in the HM Treasury ‘Statement of Funding Policy’ provides governance of the financial relationships between UK Government Departments and Devolved Administrations; DWP and the Scottish Government are bound to it by the terms of their Concordat

Carers

- Aim to simplify the benefit system to improve work incentives and encourage responsibility and fairness

Recently:

- Carer's Credit introduced on 6th April 2010 is a National Insurance credit (not to be confused with a benefit payment) which means that thousands more carers can build up their basic State Pension and State Second Pension
- Care Partnership Managers appointed in each Jobcentre Plus District; Sept 2009
 - A strategic focal point for local carer employer issues
 - Partnerships with local carer support organisations
 - Ensuring carers have access to employment support
 - Reducing financial hardship for carers

State Pension / Age

- Life expectancy has increased across all social groups
- The increased cost needs to be considered with particular consideration to the working age population who will fund State Pension
- Earnings link to be restored for basic State Pension from April 2011

'Our' Purpose

Working in partnership to develop efficient and effective public services which support the most vulnerable in our communities.

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and Carers Service**

Department for Work and Pensions

Strategic & Operational

- Scottish Government
 - CoSLA
 - Macmillan
 - Princes Royal Trust for Carers
 - Alzheimer Scotland
 - Energy Assistance Package
 - SHOP
 - Glasgow's Helping Heroes
-to name just a few

“For your consideration”

21st Century Welfare: consultation -

- <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/21st-century-welfare.pdf>

Official UK Government website -

- <http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/index.htm>

Strategy for Partnerships & External Relationships -

- <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/pdcs-partnerships-strategy.pdf>

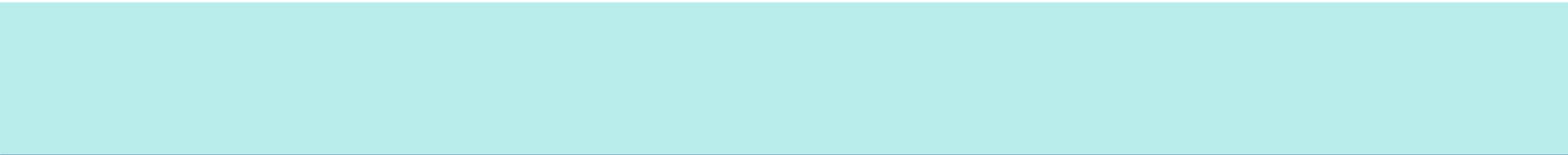
Thank you and any questions?

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