

Report

Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	8 February 2022
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Scottish Child Disability Payment (CDP) – Education Resources Information Requests and Associated Administrative Support
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide a general update on the implementation of the new Scottish Child Disability Payment scheme (CDP)
- ◆ explain the need for staffing establishment changes as required to assist with the process of responding to information requests used to support parent/carer CDP applications

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the introduction of the Scottish Child Disability Payment (CDP) and the supporting information required from Education professionals be noted;
- (2) to note that a number of posts will be required to efficiently support the full rollout of the scheme from April 2022 and beyond; and
- (3) to note that Scottish Government funding will be used to cover additional staffing costs required to co-ordinate the response to information requests which will be used to support parent/carer CDP applications.

3. Background

3.1. The Social Security Programme is in the process of designing and implementing the delivery of the new devolved Disability Benefits in Scotland, starting with Child Disability Payment (CDP).

3.2. Child Disability Living Allowance (DLA), co-ordinated through DWP, is to be replaced by the Scottish Child Disability Payment (CDP). This Scotland wide change took effect on 22 November 2021 following trials in three pilot areas (Perth and Kinross, Dundee and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Council).

3.3. All new applications under the Scottish Child Disability Payment (CDP) will now be made through Social Security Scotland.

3.4. Existing Child Disability Living Allowance (DLA) claimants need take no action as this benefit will be automatically transferred over during the course of the next year.

- 3.5. A key policy decision was to include the option for applicants to request for Social Security Scotland to collect supporting information on their behalf. This helps to reduce the burden on parents/carers providing information. As a result, Social Security Scotland will, therefore, look to gather information from GP practices, Health Boards and Local Authorities on behalf of applicants.
- 3.6. This information will be gathered through a standardised process using a 'Supporting Information Form', supported by a Data Sharing Agreement. The aim is to ask professionals within the Public Sector to share information that will enable Social Security Scotland to better understand a child's disability, including how it impacts them and the support that they need, and to, in turn, be able to provide the child with the level of support that is right for them.
- 3.7. Education Resources will be asked to provide appropriate data to help inform the assessment process. Education Resources will receive annual funding of £0.248m to support the process.

4. Current Position

- 4.1. Education Resources have set up an initial administrative process to ensure all information requests are processed correctly and in a timeous fashion.
- 4.2. There have been limited information requests received thus far and the administration team has been able to manage the process within existing staffing resources.
- 4.3. As the volume of information requests increases, it is expected that additional staff will be required to ensure that the handling and responding to such information requests is managed timeously effectively and in line with the data sharing agreement.

5. Proposal

- 5.1. It is proposed that:-
 - ◆ the Education Resources Administration Team will continue to administer the co-ordination of professional input in support of a CDP application made by a parent/carer within existing staffing resources until March 2022
 - ◆ from April 2022, the Education Resources Administration Team determines additional staff, as required, in response to any growth in the number of information requests received
 - ◆ the Education Resources Administration Team has flexibility on the grade and level of staff that will be required to administer this payment up to the amount of the Scottish Government funding of £0.248m

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. It is expected that additional Education Resources staffing will be required at Grade 1 and Grade 2. Once determined, details will be presented at a future Committee meeting.
- 6.2. As previously advised, at this time, the number of requests for information to support a parent/carer CDP application is low and the process is being managed by existing staff. As we expect numbers of requests to increase, we need to be able to react quickly to support the assessment process and be empowered to recruit and train staff.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. The Council has received notification from the Scottish Government that permanent funding of £0.248m per annum has been allocated to allow for the work in handling

and responding to information requests to support CDP applications made by parents/carers.

7.2. Any staffing or other associated costs will be managed within this funding allocation.

8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

8.1. There are no significant risk implications in terms of the information contained within this report.

9. Other Implications

9.1. An information sharing agreement has been signed off between South Lanarkshire Council and Social Security Scotland. Processes in place will adhere to the agreement.

10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

10.1. This report introduces a new administrative function to support the Scottish Government's new policy on the Social Security Programme, therefore, no equality impact assessment is required to be undertaken by the Council.

10.2. Discussions have taken place with Teacher Trade Unions and relevant Education staff are aware of their potential input.

**Tony McDaid,
Executive Director (Education Resources)**

18 January 2022

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Efficient use of Resources
- ◆ Tackling Poverty and Disadvantage

Previous References

None

List of Background Papers

None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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