



East Renfrewshire Citizens

Advice Bureau Weekly Update

24/02/2023

Case Study –

One aspect of our benefit advice and support we offer to our East Renfrewshire residents is acting as representatives at benefit appeals.

We recently represented 3 clients in one morning at His Majesty's Court & Tribunal Service for different benefit issues.

1st client has been in receipt of PIP for many years and had contacted DWP to advice of an additional illness. This prompted a review form which he completed himself & resulted in his award being downgraded from Enhanced Daily Living to Standard - a decrease of £30.55 per week. In this current economic state this had a huge impact on client financially. We assisted with Mandatory reconsideration with no luck and then represented client at appeal where it was successfully reinstated to original rate indefinitely.

2nd client applied himself for PIP and was awarded 0 points. Client contacted us to assist and we submitted a Mandatory Reconsideration which also resulted in 0 points. This was successful at appeal and client was awarded standard Daily Living at £61.85 per week backdated to date of application 14 months previous and awarded for a further 3 years.

3rd client was awarded Limited Capability for Work and Work related activity as part of Universal credit claim. This element adds £354.28 per month to client's UC. However, client disagreed with start date of this element. He had completed Mandatory Reconsideration himself which was unsuccessful and then contacted us for assistance in taking this to appeal. This appeal was successful and the LCWRA element backdated for 2 years.

Total Client financial gain over these successful appeals for our 3 clients was **£9056.16** per year going forward and backdated payments of **£13,586.97**.

You can contact our bureau on 0141 881 2032.

School Closures –

Due to planned industrial action on Tuesday 28th February and Wednesday 1st March, **all** primary, secondary schools and Isobel Mair will be closed.

Nurseries and family centres will remain open, but individual opening hours may be limited.

Councillor Visit –

This week we had the pleasure of welcoming Councillor Anderson into the bureau to find out more about the work we do for our East Renfrewshire residents.

All of us at ERCAB would like to extend our thanks to Councillor Anderson and all local Councillors who show us their continued support and gratitude.

We hope that these meetings can allow us all to further our knowledge on how we can support our local residents effectively and efficiently.

Best Start Foods –

Best Start Foods helps eligible people with the cost of buying healthy food and milk when they are pregnant or have a child under the age of three.

The payment is delivered via a prepaid card and is topped up with up to £36 for each eligible child every four weeks.

Families issued with these prepaid cards to help with the cost of healthy food shopping are now being urged to check they aren't missing out on part of a total of £2.3 million in payments which have yet to be spent.

The Best Start Foods was brought in by the Scottish Government in August 2019 to replace the UK Healthy Start Voucher Scheme.

The Best Start Foods scheme can be used in shops or online to buy healthy food; it is:

- £18 every 4 weeks during pregnancy.
- £36 every 4 weeks from your child being born up until they're one year old.
- £18 every 4 weeks when your child is between the ages of one and 3 years old.

Details of eligibility and how to claim can be found at www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant-best-start-foods.

Clients can also get in contact with the bureau via:

Email - ere-bureau@eastrenfrewshirecab.casonline.org.uk

You can also keep up to date with recent news from ERCAB via our social media platforms. Please feel free to distribute the contact details for our advisers provided on our Facebook page.

Facebook – **East Renfrewshire CAB** & Twitter **@EastAdvice**