



### Carers across Greater Glasgow and Clyde called forward for COVID vaccination

People aged 16 to 64 in Greater Glasgow and Clyde who provide vital face to face care and support for others, and have not already had their first vaccine dose or appointment letter, are being invited to register for their COVID-19 vaccination.

A self-registration service has been launched this week to enable people aged 16 and over to check their eligibility and register, online or over the phone if unable to get online, for the vaccine as an unpaid carer. Carers who receive relevant benefits should have already received a letter with details of their appointment but all eligible unpaid carers are being encouraged to self-register - when they do, they will be advised if they are already scheduled for an appointment so there is no duplication.

**You can check if you are eligible by using the website self-registration at [nhsinform.scot/carersregister](https://nhsinform.scot/carersregister) or by calling the Covid Vaccination Helpline on 0800 030 8013.**

### Good News Story – Newly Self Employed Hardship Fund

Client contacted the office for assistance. Client is a self-employed hairdresser who has been unable to work throughout the pandemic resulting in a loss of income for her. Client is also pregnant, living at home with her partner who works full time. The client had contacted the office looking for assistance with a benefit check to find out if there was any entitlement to make a claim for anything. A benefit check was completed with the client but unfortunately due to her partner's earnings from work they had no benefit entitlement.

The client was assisted with looking at any business grants that she may have had any entitlement to but the client had advised she had already applied for these and was not eligible. The client was then advised that there was a new grant coming out "Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund" client was assisted with looking over the entitlement for this and it was found that the client would be entitled to make a claim for this. Client was successful with this application and would receive a £4,000 payment. The client was also advised that she would be able to make a claim for maternity allowance once she was further along into her pregnancy and that the bureau would be able to assist with this application. Further to this the client was advised that once she had her baby we would complete a further benefit check as she may have further benefit entitlement at this point. Client was very grateful for the support received and would be in contact in the future once further along into her pregnancy for further support.

### Strategic Framework Business Fund

The Strategic Framework Business Fund (SFBF) provided grants to businesses that were required to close by law or to significantly change their operations due to Covid-19 restrictions from November 2020.

All businesses currently in receipt of support through SFBF will receive the final payment and restart grant (please check criteria). A final four-weekly payment will be made on 22 March 2021.

Whether your business is eligible will depend on where your premises are located and what level of restrictions are in place at any point in time.

You can apply if;

- Your business has been directly impacted by restrictions and the type/sector is mentioned in eligibility guidelines
- Your business is registered for non-domestic rates – if you pay rates through a landlord rather than directly to local authority you can still apply but must provide evidence through a copy of the lease agreement.

For further information on how to apply for this, please visit; <https://www.gov.scot/news/rental-sector-loan-schemes-extended/>

### Pension Entitlement

Tens of thousands of women are likely to have been underpaid the state pension. Married women who hit state pension age before April 2016, plus widows, divorcees and over-80s – whether married or not – should check. If you received your state pension after this, you will be on the new state pension system, and none of this will apply.

For more information on this, please visit; <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/reclaim/married-women-missing-state-pension-boost/>

If you struggle to check your pension entitlement, please contact the bureau on – **0141 881 2032**

Please feel free to distribute the contact details for our advisers provided on our Facebook page. Clients can also get in contact with the bureau via:

Email-bureau@eastrenfrewshirecab.casonline.org.uk

Tel - **0141 881 2032**