

## Community Resilience Group Weekly Briefing - 19 28 May 2021

### Deadline for EU Settlement Scheme Approaches

There is a call to raise awareness that the deadline for applying to the EU settlement Scheme is **30 June 2021** and to encourage anyone who has not yet applied to do so. This is necessary to ensure people can continue to work in the UK and have access to public services.

Anyone wishing to apply must do so online, using a PC, laptop, Android device or iPhone, on the GOV.UK website at [www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families](http://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families) Telephone support is available from the EU Settlement Resolution Centre. Call 0300 123 7379 Monday to Friday from 8am to 8pm or weekends from 9.30am to 4.30pm.

A helpline service called EU Citizens Support is available by phone from the Citizens Advice Bureau - Call 0800 916 9847 Mondays and Fridays from 9am to 1pm or Wednesdays from 1pm to 5pm.

Advice and assistance is also available from the Citizens Rights Project who can also offer support in different languages. Phone 07518 926137 or email [info@citizensrightsproject.org](mailto:info@citizensrightsproject.org)

Please raise awareness of this across your networks.

### British Red Cross Training Opportunities

The British Red Cross are running virtual training sessions, on a range of topics:

- Adapt and Recover from Adversity
- First Aid Training
- Tackling Loneliness
- Tea.Learn.Connect

Please click the link for booking details and dates of each session

<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/CommunityEducationTLCTeaLearnChat@brcsbrms.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/>

Please note that all sessions are free.

## Social Security Scotland Updates

*Please see below, key updates from Social Security Scotland*

### Applications to open for School Age Payment

Eligible parents of children aged 4 and 5 are being encouraged to apply for financial support worth over £250 when applications open on 1 June 2021.

The School Age Payment is open to families who get tax credits or certain benefits and have a child who was born between 1 March 2016 and 28 February 2017.

The one-off payment can be used for anything from a new pair of shoes to books or arts and crafts materials.

Parents who have deferred their child's entry to school from August 2020 to August 2021 should still apply before the closing date on 28 February 2022 - if an application is made after this time it will be too late.

Please raise awareness of this payment within the application window including sharing the [promotional video](#).

### Young people urged to check out Job Start Payment

Young people returning to work are being urged to check if they are eligible for Job Start Payment.

Over 1,000 young people have already benefited from this support since it launched during the COVID-19 pandemic. That's more than £277,000 invested so far in helping those whose job prospects have been hardest hit over the past year.

Job Start Payment is now £252.50, or £404 if the applicant has children and is available to young people who have been on certain benefits for 6 months or more. This payment could help with travel costs or could be used for clothing, lunches and other expenses that need to be met before someone receives their first salary.

[Figures released last week](#) cover the period from 17 August 2020, when Job Start Payment launched, to 31 March 2021.

People can apply for Job Start Payment for up to 3 months after their start date. You can find out more and apply through [mygov.scot](https://mygov.scot) or by calling 0800 182 2222

## Vaccination Update

The latest update from NHS on the vaccine can be accessed at the following link:

[www.nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccine](http://www.nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccine)

## Food Support for Groups

We know that a number of you continue to provide support to the most vulnerable in your communities and that most of you already have well defined routes for accessing food to provide this support or are supporting individuals to access their shopping or community fridges/food tables.

If you are struggling to access food to continue support to vulnerable people locally, please do contact us through the policy mailbox and we can look at ways that we can support your group going forward.

Contact: [policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:policy6@highland.gov.uk)

## Resilience Network Contacts

Should any group not already be involved with these networks, the contact details for each is below.

- Caithness –If any groups aren't involved and wish to be please contact Alan Tait at Caithness Voluntary Groups [allan@cvq.org.uk](mailto:allan@cvq.org.uk)
- Sutherland – If any groups aren't involved and wish to be please contact Karina Ross at Highland and Islands Enterprise [karina.ross@hient.co.uk](mailto:karina.ross@hient.co.uk)
- East Ross – Helen Ross, Ward Manager, will facilitate this network. For future involvement in this network please contact [policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:policy6@highland.gov.uk)
- Black Isle - If any groups aren't involved and wish to be please contact Asia Cielecka at [communities@black-isle.info](mailto:communities@black-isle.info)
- Wester Ross and Dingwall – Dot Ferguson, Ward Manager, will facilitate this network. For future involvement in this network please contact [policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:policy6@highland.gov.uk)
- Skye and Raasay - If any groups aren't involved and wish to be please contact Fiona Thomson at Skye Community Response Development Team [fiona@portreeandbraes.org](mailto:fiona@portreeandbraes.org)
- Lochaber – Emma Tayler, Assistant Ward Manager, will facilitate this network. For future involvement in this network please contact [policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:policy6@highland.gov.uk)
- B&S –If any groups aren't involved and wish to be please contact Karen Derrick [enquires@vabs.org.uk](mailto:enquires@vabs.org.uk)
- Inverness City – David Haas, City Manager, will facilitate this network. For future involvement in this network please contact [policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:policy6@highland.gov.uk)
- Inverness Rural – Charles Stephen, Ward Manager, will facilitate this network. For future involvement in this network please contact [policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:policy6@highland.gov.uk)

- Nairn – Emma Tayler, Ward Manager, will facilitate this network. For future involvement in this network please contact [policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:policy6@highland.gov.uk)

## **Helpful Links**

Welfare Support Team - [www.highland.gov.uk/directory\\_record/102970/benefit\\_advice](http://www.highland.gov.uk/directory_record/102970/benefit_advice)

Self Isolation Support Grant - [www.highland.gov.uk/info/20016/coronavirus/940/self-isolation\\_support\\_grant](http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20016/coronavirus/940/self-isolation_support_grant)

Energy Advice

[energyadvisors@hi.homeenergyscotland.org](mailto:energyadvisors@hi.homeenergyscotland.org)

AbilityNet - IT advice or support AbilityNet

Helpline 0800 048 7642.

Covid Resilience Grant Support -

[www.highland.gov.uk/directory\\_record/1422811/supporting\\_community\\_resilience/category/155/grants\\_for\\_community\\_groups](http://www.highland.gov.uk/directory_record/1422811/supporting_community_resilience/category/155/grants_for_community_groups)

HTSI Community Group Helpline

Telephone Number 01349 808022