



February 2019 News

Welcome to our update for groups and services supporting older veterans and their families. In this edition:

- [New advice guide - housing for older veterans](#)
- [Maximising older veterans income](#)
- [Veterans' health and well-being – help shape our new guide](#)
- [Getting veterans active in later life](#)
- [Coming up](#)
- [Campaigning and influencing](#)
- [Funding](#)

Please tell us whether and how you found this update helpful by completing a short online survey - [here](#).

Housing advice for older veterans

Housing for older veterans in Scotland



Age Scotland and Housing Options Scotland Military Matters project have launched a Housing for Older Veterans in Scotland advice guide ([available online here](#)). The guide covers the main housing options for home owners and tenants:

- adapting your home
- getting extra help to live in your home
- moving to a new home more suitable for you needs – including specialist veterans' housing and care homes.

The guide also covers help available for bills and utilities, and support to get out and about.

Groups and services working with older veterans can order free stocks of the guide from publications@agescotland.org.uk and older veterans can call the Age Scotland helpline for single copies (0800 12 44 222).

Maximising older veterans' income



Veterans who rent their home and receive a War Pension can be eligible for Housing Benefit even if their income would usually be too high to qualify.

By law, councils must ignore the first £10 of any War Disablement Pension or Guaranteed Income Payment received under the War Pension Scheme or Armed Forces Compensation Scheme. However, councils can choose to ignore up to 100 percent of these payments.

In December, Age Scotland sent a Freedom of Information request to all 32 councils in Scotland, asking them how much of these payments they ignore.

All 32 councils told us that they ignore War Disablement Pensions and Guaranteed Income Payments in full.

Some of the supplements and allowances that are paid with War Disablement Pensions and Guaranteed Income Payments should also be ignored. These are:

- Constant Attendance Allowance
- War Pensioners Mobility Supplement
- Severe Disablement Occupational Allowance
- Exceptionally Severe Disablement Allowance
- Armed Forces Independence Payment
- Certain supplementary payments or pensions for war widows, widowers or surviving civil partners

Most Scottish councils (26 out of 32) told us that they ignore all associated allowances and supplements, not just those listed above.

This means that if a veteran's income is otherwise low, the compensation they receive for injuries or illnesses resulting from time in the Armed Forces doesn't stop them from being eligible for Housing Benefit.

Although this is great news, only six of the councils we contacted had a publicly-available written policy for their Housing Benefit calculations. However, if you contact the Housing Benefit department of your local council, they will be able to tell you how they treat payments under the War Pension and Armed Forces Compensation Schemes.

For more information about Housing Benefit, or a free benefit check to find out if you may be eligible, contact the Age Scotland helpline on **0800 12 44 222**.

Help shape our new advice guide

We're preparing the next publication in our older veterans' advice guide series, to focus on general health and well-being. For this we would welcome **case studies/examples** of successful activity to promote the physical and mental health and well-being of older veterans. We would also like to form a short-life **sounding board** for the publication of people working with and for older veterans who can spare a bit of time to review plans and drafts, and to contribute to a phone conference discussion about these.

To discuss please contact Jo Wakeley on **0333 323 2400** or email

Joanne.Wakeley@agescotland.org.uk.

Getting veterans active in later life



Age Scotland and Erskine are seeking partners to help identify how best to encourage older veterans to benefit from regular physical activity. This spring and summer we would like to arrange programmes of short **physical activity taster sessions** for older veterans within their existing social clubs and groups. From these, we aim to learn what activities older veterans enjoy and how these are best organised. To find out more and express interest please contact **Doug Anthony** on **0131 668 8012** or email doug.anthoney@agescotland.org.uk.

For these physical activity taster sessions we will work in partnership with specialist charities. One of these is [Paths for All](#), which supports a network of community Health Walk projects all over Scotland that organise free group walks every week, and are always looking for new walkers.

A Health Walk:

- is led by a trained volunteer on a risk assessed route
- is less than an hour long
- is a friendly group walk offered regularly
- is an opportunity to meet new people in the area and explore places someone might not have been before

Health Walks are aimed at inactive people who would benefit most from doing more physical activity. This can include people who haven't been active for a while and would like to start again, people recovering from ill health or who are managing a long-term condition.

Health walkers can enjoy a whole range of benefits including increased fitness, improved mood and increased social interactions with local people and the local area. Walking requires no special equipment or expense and is the ideal way for most people to become more active. To find Health Walks near you.

<https://www.pathsforall.org.uk/walking-for-health/health-walks>

Health Walks offer a warm welcome and a walk at a pace and length that suits all, whatever their ability.

Coming up

Tuesday 19 February: Free training, Paisley: dementia and older veterans' awareness. [Info and booking here.](#)

Wednesday 13 March: Free training, Alloa: dementia and older veterans' awareness. [Details and booking here.](#)

Wednesday 6 March: Generations Working Together national conference, Glasgow. [Details and booking here.](#)

Wednesday 20 March: Age Scotland Annual Conference and Awards, Glasgow –

For details and to book email: nationalconference2019@agescotland.org.uk

Campaigning and influencing

Top news stories from Age Scotland.

- [UK Government's sneak move will see many pensioners thousands of pounds worse off](#)
- [Council cuts threaten vital handy-person services](#)
- [61 percent of people with dementia diagnosis didn't get treatment they were promised](#)

Funding

The Corra Foundation

The Corra Foundation's 'Henry Duncan Grants Programme' offers one-off awards of up to £7,000 to charities in Scotland working with people who may typically be experiencing challenging family circumstances, disability, mental ill health, abuse or poverty.

<https://www.corra.scot/grant-programmes/henry-duncan-grants/>

Next deadline: 4 March 2019

Dunhill Medical Trust: Grants for Charities Working with Older People

Community-based charities working directly with older people who need some form of extra support to make everyday living that bit easier can apply for funding through the Dunhill Medical Trust. Project Grants of between £5,000 - £40,000 are available for time-limited projects which focus on the development of care and support services for

older people.

Building and Physical Infrastructure Grants are awarded for accommodation/developments in the built and/or specific pieces of equipment or furnishings which can be used for the care and support of e.g. installation of a hearing loop system.

<https://dunhillmedical.org.uk/grants-for-community-based-organisations/>

The next deadline to apply is the 29th March 2019

Big Lottery Fund (Scotland) - National Lottery Awards for All Scotland

National Lottery Awards for All offers funding up to £10,000 to support what matters to people and communities. The programme is a partnership between the Big Lottery Fund Scotland, sportscotland and Creative Scotland. It has three funding priorities: bringing people together and building strong relationships in and across communities; improving the places and spaces that matter to communities; enabling more people to fulfil their potential by working to address issues at the earliest possible stage.

<https://www.scotmid.coop/community-connect/>

No deadline date

Ross and Liddell - Community Bursary Programme

Small grants of up to £500 are available to local community organisations in Scotland that make a vital difference to their local area.

<https://ross-liddell.com/community-bursary>

No deadline date

Scotmid - Community Connect

Community Connect enables Scotmid members to give back to their Communities. It allows three good cause groups from three Member Regions (North, East and West) to receive a financial award of up to £15,000 following a vote by Scotmid members. They're looking for applications that: benefit the local community centred around Scotmid or Semichem stores; have the greatest possible benefit to their community; are scheduled to be completed within 24 months of the award date. Scotmid members

collect one Community Connect vote every time they shop in store. They then use their votes to determine the size of the award that each Good Cause Group receives.

<http://www.scotmid.coop/how-does-community-connect-work-for-community-groups/>

Applications for funding awards are open until 22 March 2019.

Gannochy Trust

The Gannochy Trust is an independent grant maker, the greater percentage of the Trust's funding will be aimed at groups and organisations within Perth and Kinross.

Organisations within **Perth and Kinross** can apply for funding: improve the quality of life for people; develop and inspire young people and improve the availability or quality of the built and natural environment for wide community use.

<http://www.gannochytrust.org.uk>

No deadline date