

The Highland Council
Resources Committee - 25th February 2015

Agenda Item	8(a)
Report No	RES/07/15

Welfare Reform Update

Joint Report by Director of Finance and Director of Community Services

Summary

This Report provides information on the current status of Universal Credit and other Welfare initiatives. It also provides financial monitoring information for 2014/15, covering the Council's considerable involvement in this area of work.

1. Background

1.1 This report forms part of a regular update on all issues relating to Welfare Reform. The latest statistics are outlined in **Appendix 1**.

2. The Smith Commission

2.1 On 27 November 2014 the report of the Smith Commission was published. Some of the recommendations included in the report are:

2.2 Universal Credit

Universal Credit (UC) will remain a reserved benefit administered and delivered by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). Within this framework:

- The Scottish Government will be given the administrative power to change the frequency of UC payments, vary the existing plans for single household payments, and pay landlords direct for housing costs in Scotland.
- The Scottish Parliament will have the power to vary the housing cost elements of UC, including varying the under-occupancy charge and local housing allowance rates, eligible rent, and deductions for non-dependants.

The power to vary the remaining elements of UC and the earnings taper will remain reserved as will conditionality and sanctions.

2.3 Benefits devolved outside Universal Credit

Powers over the following benefits in Scotland will be devolved to the Scottish Parliament:

- Benefits for carers, disabled people and those who are ill: Attendance Allowance, Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Personal Independence Payment (PIP), Industrial Injuries Disablement Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance.
- Benefits which currently comprise the Regulated Social Fund: Cold Weather Payment, Funeral Payment, Sure Start Maternity Grant

- and Winter Fuel Payment.
- Discretionary Housing Payments.

New arrangements for how Motability will operate in Scotland for DLA/PIP claimants will be agreed between the Scottish and UK Governments.

The Scottish Parliament will have complete autonomy in determining the structure and value of the benefits listed above or any new benefits or services which might replace them. There have been no decisions yet regarding the specific role of local authorities in these devolved matters although there has been an acknowledgement that local authorities have a demonstrable track record for effectively implementing large scale change within the legislative timetable and for quality ongoing delivery including on benefits services.

2.4 **Benefits reserved outside Universal Credit**

Responsibility for the following benefits will remain reserved: Bereavement Allowance, Bereavement Payment, Child Benefit, Guardian's Allowance, Maternity Allowance, Statutory Maternity Pay, Statutory Sick Pay and Widowed Parent's Allowance.

2.5 **Powers to create new benefits and top-up reserved benefits**

The Scottish Parliament will have new powers to create new benefits in areas of devolved responsibility. The Scottish Parliament will also have new powers to make discretionary payments in any area of welfare without the need to obtain prior permission from DWP. In addition it may seek agreement from DWP for the Department to deliver those discretionary payments on behalf of the Scottish Government.

The UK Government's Benefit Cap will also be adjusted to accommodate any additional benefit payments that the Scottish Parliament provides.

2.6 The current phase of the Smith Commission report resulted in draft legislation clauses being published on 25 January 2015.

2.7 It should be noted; whilst these legislative changes are progressing through Parliament the Department for Work and Pensions continues to implement Welfare Reform measures. Most notably these are Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payment. The impact in the Highlands is detailed in paragraphs 3 and 4 of this report.

3. **Universal Credit**

3.1 The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has announced Universal Credit will be rolled out to the remaining 5 Jobcentres (Wick, Dingwall, Invergordon, Portree and Fort William) within the Highlands between February and April 2015. Initially the national expansion will only apply to new claims from **single** jobseekers who meet the specific qualifying criteria. DWP estimates combined weekly new claim volumes for single claimants in these 5 Jobcentres will be equivalent to that of Inverness Job Centre. On average Inverness had 22 new single claimant claims per week when they were the only eligible claimant group.

- 3.2 In preparation for Universal Credit, the Head of Revenues and Business Support has made arrangements to work jointly with DWP to deliver awareness workshops at five locations across Highland; Wick, Portree, Fort William, Dingwall and Inverness. Members and relevant frontline staff across the Council will be invited to attend one of these sessions.
- 3.3 These sessions will be delivered in two parts. The first half will provide high-level awareness of Universal Credit and the benefits for claimants and employers; the claimant journey; and the claim process. This session is aimed at Members and front-line staff within the Service Point; Housing; members of the Finance Service's Operations Team; Money Advisers; Customer Income Maximisation Officers; Employability Advisers; and those staff within Care and Learning whose clients may make a future claim for Universal Credit.
- 3.4 The second session is intended to enhance the technical expertise of those staff that will be involved in sending and receiving notifications from the DWP to support vulnerable claimants and for administrative purposes. This session is aimed at Money Advisers; Housing staff and members of the Finance Service's Operations Team.
- 3.5 DWP have updated their timeline for Universal Credit roll-out which was originally planned to be fully implemented by 2017. This timeline shows that the last new claims to working-age legacy benefits (including housing benefit) will be accepted during 2017. Following this, the stock of remaining legacy claims will progressively decline, and the remaining claims will migrate to Universal Credit. Should there be no change in the labour market outlook or the pace at which claims are migrated; DWP's current business case assumes for planning purposes the bulk of the migration exercise will be complete by 2019. Workforce planning arrangements are in place within the Revenues and Business Support Section and these will be continually monitored and reviewed to ensure that these and other changes are taken into account.
- 3.6 Presently Inverness Jobcentre remains the only office in Scotland delivering new claims to Universal Credit for both single and couple claimants who meet the specific qualifying criteria. In the recently published official Universal Credit statistics for December 2014 Inverness has had 850 claimants who have completed the Universal Credit claim process and accepted their Claimant Commitment, with 630 claimants still claiming Universal Credit.
- 3.7 During February 2015 it is also anticipated new claims to Universal Credit will be extended to families who meet specific criteria in Inverness Jobcentre. DWP class a family as a single claimant or couple claimants who are responsible for one or more children or qualifying young persons (i.e. someone aged 16 – 19 and in full time non-advanced education or training).

3.8 **DPA negotiations**

The Head of Revenues and Business Support is in the process of finalising a negotiated Delivery Partnership Agreement (DPA) with the DWP to support the delivery of Universal Credit in the Highlands. This will set out the Council's commitment to provide claimant services in the form of personal budgeting support and on-line support. The DPA also makes financial provision for the manual calculation of council tax reduction following a claim or change to claimants' Universal Credit and for responding to DWP enquiries relating to housing benefit.

The DPA will not make provision for those services that are already delivered as a core Council service, for example employability as DWP has separate negotiations with the Development and Infrastructure Service in this regard.

- 3.9 Existing legislation does not provide DWP with a power to routinely disclose information about all claimants receiving Universal Credit. DWP have recognised the importance of data sharing and now intend to introduce new regulations which amend the Social Security (Information-sharing in relation to Welfare Services etc.) Regulations 2012 to allow information sharing between DWP and local support providers, specifically local authorities, citizens advice bureaux, credit unions, social landlords and relevant registered charities for the purposes of the Universal Support Delivered Locally framework (formerly Local Support Services Framework).
- 3.10 The proposed changes are intended to come into force on 13 February 2015 and will enable the identification of Universal Credit claimants who need assistance, advice and support and to ensure that support is in place. This support may be in connection with claims and awards, managing their financial affairs, and accessing and using online services. Social landlords will include registered social landlords, local authorities with their own housing stock, and arms-length Management Organisations of social housing.
- 3.11 The information shared will be aimed at supporting those who have already made a claim for Universal Credit, those making new claims and existing claimants reporting a change of circumstances and in need of additional local support.
- 3.12 In a recent consultation by DWP on these proposed changes to data sharing the Policy and Development Manager in the Revenues and Business Support section submitted a positive response that supported these proposals on the basis that data sharing is crucial to enabling the Council, social landlords and other support agencies to provide pro-active advice, information and support measures within the Highlands. By identifying vulnerable customers and those in need of support, Officers across a range of Council Services will be able to effectively engage with Universal Credit claimants through a variety of channels including telephony, digitally and where appropriate face to face.

- 3.13 Data sharing should address the current delays in changes being reported for the purposes of housing benefit and council tax reduction. These delays impact on processing times and have a negative knock on effect on rent arrears and council tax collections.

Universal Credit and Council Tenants

- 3.14 The impact of Universal Credit on Council Tenants continues to be a concern. Up to the 20 December 2014, Community Services are aware of 41 tenants who the Council believe have made a claim for Universal Credit since it was implemented. Of these, 37 households (90%) are current Highland Council tenancies of which 31 (84%) are in arrears with their rent. The cumulative rent arrears of the households currently affected by Universal Credit are £25,328. However, it is likely that the management of these cases will be improved in future and this is explained in more detail at 3.18.
- 3.15 A further £7,754 of rent arrears has accrued as a result of former tenant debt in respect of five tenants who were residing in temporary accommodation. The housing cost element of Universal Credit can only be paid direct to a landlord in respect of a tenant's current accommodation. Therefore it is unlikely that the Council will receive any direct Universal Credit payments from DWP in respect of these cases. There may however be scope to apply to the DWP for further direct deductions from ongoing benefits in respect of these arrears and urgent action is being taken to by the Service to take these forward.
- 3.16 Of the tenants currently affected, 33 (89%) are making payments towards their rent. 13 of these (35%) have started to reduce the level of their rent arrears, whereas in 19 cases (51%) the level of rent arrears are continuing to rise. The level of arrears for the remaining cases has remained static and where appropriate, applications for direct deductions from ongoing benefit are being progressed.
- 3.17 At the 29 November 2014, 29 requests have been made to the DWP for direct landlord payments. Three direct payments have been approved and are currently in place. The Council await decisions on the remaining applications. The timescales being taken for the DWP to make a decision on these applications can vary on a case by case basis.
- 3.18 On 5 December 2014, Officers from Inverness Jobcentre met as part of the ongoing engagement process with representatives from Finance and Community Services to discuss the impacts of Universal Credit on tenants and the increasing concerns regarding rent arrears. Issues raised at this meeting have been escalated to the Universal Credit Implementation Team. The issues raised include:
- The notification process to tenants and landlords where tenants have a change in circumstances that affects the amount of Universal Credit in payment.
 - Whether notification letters should be issued to landlords to advise when requests for alternative payment arrangements are refused/disallowed.

- DWP timescales for the processing of alternative payment requests. DWP advise that we can expect a response within 10 days of the date of the request being sent by the Council. To date, this performance has fallen short of this indicator and both parties will continue to monitor to improve service delivery.
- Clarification from DWP as to the process of assessing outstanding alternative payment requests when a tenant has vacated their property.
- Ensuring that staff at Jobcentre Plus ask claimants who their landlord is to ensure that housing costs are included where applicable in the calculation of Universal Credit.

3.19 Overall, the roll-out of Universal Credit to the remaining areas of Highland present concerns over the impact on rent collection levels.

4. Personal Independence Payment

4.1 Personal Independence Payment (PIP) has replaced Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for new claims from people aged 16 to 64 on 8 April 2013 or who turned 16 after that date. People cannot claim DLA and PIP at the same time. Children under the age of 16 and people aged 65 and over cannot claim PIP.

4.2 The most recent data available from DWPs stats-xplore shows the Highland Council area had 925 PIP claimants receiving PIP at October 2014.

4.3 DWP has gradually started to reassess existing DLA claimants for PIP in certain areas in the UK. From 26 January 2015 IV postcodes will be included in this reassessment process. Claimants being reassessed will include:

- those with fixed period DLA awards coming up for renewal;
- children who turn 16 years old on or after 7 October 2013 (unless they have been awarded DLA under the Special Rules for terminally ill people);
- those where there is a report of a change in the DLA claimant's health condition or disability;
- existing DLA claimants aged 16 to 64 who wish to make a PIP claim.

DLA claimants do not need to take any action until they are contacted by DWP. We are continuing to work closely with colleagues in Care and Learning to support those who will be affected by these changes.

4.4 From October 2015 existing DLA claimants who do not fall into one of the above categories will be invited to claim PIP (claimants who have reached age 65 or older will be contacted as soon as possible after October 2015). This will also take into account DLA claimants who have an indefinite award.

- 4.5 The Department for Work and Pensions expect by late 2017 that all existing DLA claimants (aged 16 to 64 on 8 April 2013) will have been invited to claim PIP. Based on the most up to date information available, there are approximately 12,560 residents living in the Highlands who currently claim DLA that will potentially be affected by the re-assessment process.
- 4.6 In August 2014 the Council reported a large backlog in face-to-face assessments which resulted in significant delays for people waiting to receive their Personal Independence Payments. Feedback from both our Customer Income Maximisation team and CABx highlighted that some residents in the Highlands who are affected by the delay had to wait 6-9 months for a decision on their claim.
- 4.7 The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Iain Duncan Smith said in July 2014 Personal Independence Payment waiting times would be down to a maximum of 16 weeks by the end of the year (2014). The Council in-house team and CABx have reported a marked improvement in assessment decisions being made for claimants in the Inverness and surrounding area. On average waiting times are down to approximately 18 weeks. However, waiting times in the rest of the Highlands are still causing concern and continue to be well out-with this 16 week target time.
- 4.8 In addition, as part of DWP's on-going drive to improve the PIP process, the phone call routinely made to PIP claimants whose claims have been disallowed or reduced will no longer take place. DWP carried out a pilot to test the effectiveness of phone calls to these claimants and found that most claimants had already received and understood the written notification before being called by DWP and that some of them did not need or want further explanation of the decision.

5. Under Occupancy rules

- 5.1 In the update report to the Resources Committee in November 2014, Members were informed that in October 2014 MPs voted in favour of a Private Member's Bill exempting households from the Under Occupancy rules where someone is entitled to Carer's Allowance. The purpose of the *Carers Bedroom Entitlement (Social Housing Sector) Bill 2014-2015* is to provide people in receipt of universal credit and housing benefit and accommodated in the social housing sector with entitlement to an additional bedroom related to caring responsibilities or overnight care.
- 5.2 This Bill was expected to receive its second reading in the House of Commons on 9 January 2015 however; this has now been re-scheduled to 6 March 2015. An update will be provided to Members once the outcome is known.
- 5.3 Details of the number of households affected by the Under Occupancy rules in the Highlands are available in **Appendix 1** of this report. Members may wish to note the number of households affected by the Under Occupancy rules has increased slightly during the last 12 months. The total number impacted in December 2013 was 2,474 compared with 2,488 in December 2014.

6. Foodbanks

- 6.1 The 2014 distributors report for Highland Foodbank which is part of the Trussell Trust's UK-wide foodbank network shows 2,129 vouchers were issued which supported 3,383 people in the Inverness and Nairn area during the calendar year 2014. End of year figures for the foodbanks in the other areas of the Highlands are not available at the time of this report.
- 6.2 Members should also note that in 2014, the Council awarded £174,202 via the Scottish Welfare Fund for food.

7. Pension Wise

- 7.1 *Pension Wise* is the new guidance service which will offer free and impartial guidance to people on the new pension freedoms which come into effect from April 2015. Over 300,000 individuals a year with defined contribution pension savings will be able to access this service after they turn 55 years of age.
- 7.2 The new name and logo will be used by all those involved in providing the online, face to face and telephone guidance, with the aim of making it trusted and accessible. In Scotland the UK Government's delivery partner will be Citizens Advice Scotland.
- 7.3 In order to protect consumers from imitators of the service and ensure the guidance brand is trusted, the Government will make the imitation of Pension Wise illegal through the Pension Schemes Bill. Anyone seeking to pass themselves off as the service could face prosecution.

8. Power to set limit on total DHP expenditure in Scotland transferred to Scottish Ministers

- 8.1 The UK Government had legislated to provide local authorities across Great Britain with the ability to grant Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) to claimants in their areas who are entitled to Housing Benefit or the housing element of Universal Credit, and who appear to need further financial assistance to meet housing costs. Local authorities are able to exercise broad discretion to determine how and when DHPs are awarded. Each financial year the UK Government makes a contribution to the cost of DHP awards, and local authorities are able to add to this contribution, subject to a formula-based cap.
- 8.2 During 2014 the Scottish Government had requested that local authorities be permitted to spend additional funds on DHPs in Scotland and, therefore, negotiated with the UK Government for the statutory cap on DHPs to be raised or removed.
- 8.3 New legislation was laid which transferred the power to set a limit on the total expenditure on discretionary housing payments (DHPs) in Scotland from the DWP to the Scottish Government. In force from 6 November 2014 the *Scotland Act 1998 (Transfer of Functions to the Scottish*

Ministers etc.) Order 2014 transferred, from the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to the Scottish Ministers, the power to set the limit on the total amount of expenditure that may be incurred by a local authority in Scotland in making discretionary housing payments in the financial years 2014/2015 onwards.

9. Financial Monitoring Report

9.1 The financial monitoring statement is attached at **Appendix 2**.

An underspend of £0.623m is forecast. The main reasons for this are listed below.

9.2 Housing Benefits

The Council is continuing to use the Discretionary Housing Payment fund to mitigate the effects of the Under Occupancy rules and all known cases who have applied for assistance have had their Housing Benefit restored.

9.3 Council Tax Reduction (CTR)

The budget of £12.720m shows a slight rise (£0.022m) compared to what was reported to November 2014 Resources Committee. This is due to recently received additional Scottish Government funding that affects 14/15.

The Council Tax Reduction Scheme is estimated to underspend by £0.601m.

The amount of CTR, and formerly known as Council Tax Benefit, pre April 2013 estimated to be paid has decreased compared to the 14/15 budget.

Members are reminded that the main reason for this reducing expenditure relates to the way in which DWP has increased benefits and other components used to calculate CTR entitlement. The impact of these measures is therefore to reduce the qualifying amounts on which CTR is calculated.

Before CTR came into effect in April 2013, the amount of its predecessor, Council Tax Benefit, was £13.200m for 2012/13. This represents a reduction of approximately £1.1m less CTR paid to customers. Whilst CTR caseload has reduced by 2% perhaps reflecting some improvements in the economy, expenditure has reduced by 8% over the same period.

9.4 Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF)

The main change in the Welfare Monitoring statement to what was reported to November 2014 Resources Committee is the reduced overspend predicted from £0.475m to £0.201m for the Scottish Welfare fund. This has resulted from a change in qualifying policy from 1 December 2014 that affects Community Care Grants. The Council now pays claims that meet the “high” risk only qualifying criterion compared to “high” and “medium” applications. The qualifying criterion can be found at **Appendix 3**. The £0.201m estimated overspend for this current financial year is equivalent to the 2013/14 underspend which was brought forward as part of the Welfare Fund for the current year.

9.5 The Scottish Welfare Fund is funded by the Scottish Government to a pre-determined budget for administrative and expenditure costs. The Scottish Government also set the qualifying criterion for the various award levels.

10. Implications

10.1 Resource implications are set out in the paper. There are no legal; climate change/Carbon Clever; risk or Gaelic implications.

10.2 Rural Implications – the report highlights a range of issues that particularly impact on rural areas.

10.3 Equalities – the whole report seeks to consider and address the issues arising from welfare reforms that impact on poverty and vulnerability.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note and consider:

- the Universal Credit go-live sites from mid-February 2015 for single claimants and DWP's intention to roll out Universal Credit for families by February 2015.
- the ongoing planning, engagement and scheduled training with various stakeholders for the expansion of Universal Credit in Highland.
- that the Head of Revenues and Business Support is negotiating a new District Partnership Agreement to support closer working with the DWP.
- a formal response has been submitted by officers in respect of DWP's consultation re Universal Credit data sharing between DWP and local support providers.
- the management information and budgetary position provided in the appendices to the report.

Designation: Director of Finance and Director of Community Services

Date: 6 February 2015

Authors: Allan Gunn and David Goldie

Background Papers:

[The Smith Commission Report - The Smith Commission](#)
[Universal Credit national expansion - Publications - GOV.UK](#)
[Timetable for PIP replacing DLA - Publications - GOV.UK](#)

Attachments: Appendix 1 - Statistics
Appendix 2 – Welfare Budget
Appendix 3 - Scottish Welfare Fund: The Scottish Government's Scoring Matrix

Welfare Reform Report - December 14**Under occupation rules - 22/12/14**

Summary – 14% reduction	
	No of Properties
Council tenants	1,387 (67%)
HA tenants	683 (33%)
Total	2,070

Summary – 25% reduction	
	No of Properties
Council tenants	326 (78%)
HA tenants	92 (22%)
Total	418

Summary – combined	
	No of Properties
Council tenants	1,713 (69%)
HA tenants	775 (31%)
Total	2,488

Number of transfer applicants affected and movement in quarterly periods – for Highland Housing Register**data as Nov 14		
Number of applicants	% Movement since Qtr. 2 14/15	Number +/-
254	-3%	-9

Number of tenants in arrears, value of arrears and movement in quarterly periods – for Highland Council tenants only: *data as Dec 14					
Period	Total number of arrears	Value £	+/- % Movement since Qtr. 4 12/13	Number +/-	Value £ +/-
30-Apr-14	588	£168,853	2.6%-	136-	£4,638-
27-May-14	570	£168,223	3%-	154-	£5,268-
25-Jun-14	569	£162,667	6%-	155-	£10,824-
26-Jul-14	555	£155,447	10%-	169-	£18,044
27-Aug-14	568	£163,260	6%-	156-	£10,231-
25-Sep-14	558	£150,476	13%-	166-	£23,015-
28-Oct-14	565	£155,057	10%-	159-	£18,434
28-Nov-14	566	£167,101	3.7%-	158-	£6,390-
22-Dec-14	597	£178,763	3%+	127-	£5,272+

Benefit Cap at 13/01/15

Landlord type where cap has been implemented	HB reduction per week					
	£0 - £19.99	£20 – £39.99	£40 - £59.99	£60 - £79.99	£80 - £99.99	£100 - £119.99
Local Authority	1	3	4	1	2	
Housing Association	2				2	1
Private rent	1			1		

Housing Benefit Appeals

Number of appeals received with a comparison to the previous financial year			
Qtr 1 2013 Appeals/Reconsiderations	2 / 99	Qtr 1 2014 Appeals/Reconsiderations	3 / 81
Qtr 2 2013 Appeals/Reconsiderations	1 / 92	Qtr 2 2014 Appeals/Reconsiderations	0 / 102
October 2013 Appeals/Reconsiderations	1 / 20	October 2014 Appeals/Reconsiderations	1 / 29
November 2013 Appeals/Reconsiderations	0 / 23	November 2014 Appeals/Reconsiderations	0 / 31
December 2013 Appeals/Reconsiderations	0 / 15	December 2014 Appeals/Reconsiderations	1 / 44

Discretionary Housing Payments

	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Year to Date
Number of awards made in-month	3,556	854	252	247	266	5,175
Award Reasons						
Under Occupation:	3,233	738	186	200	227	4,584
Benefit Cap:	24	15	25	8	5	77
Other:	299	101	41	39	34	514
Total amount paid and committed in-month	£1,770,930	£146,111	£24,153	£17,531	£21,054	£1,979,779

Scottish Welfare Fund

	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Year to date
Crisis Grant						
Application Approved	933	845	256	238	240	2,512
In month award total	£62,692	£56,305	£15,966	£15,597	£15,839	£166,400
Average CG award	£67	£67	£62	£66	£66	£66
Community Care Grant						
Application Approved	371	330	111	88	83	983
In month award	£237,663	£209,629	£85,388	£58,575	£40,095	£631,350
Average CCG award	£641	£635	£769	£666	£483	£642

FoodBank MI

Inverness & Nairn

Vouchers issued	Adults fed	Children fed	Total fed
2,129	2,599	784	3,383

Top 3 reasons why voucher issued: 1. Benefit delay 2. Low income 3. Other 4. Benefit changes

Data taken from Distributors report 1st January 2014 - 31st December 2014

Vouchers issued	Adults fed	Children fed	Total fed
381	504	209	713

Top 3 reasons why voucher issued: 1. Benefit delay 2. Low income 3. Benefit changes

Data taken from available Distributors report 1st January 2014 - 31st July 2014

Appendix 2

WELFARE BUDGET

1 April 2014 to 31 December 2014	ACTUAL YTD £000	ANNUAL BUDGET £000	ESTIMATED OUTTURN £000	VARIANCE
Housing Benefits				
- Rent Rebates	17,731	27,960	26,597	-1,363
- Rent Allowances	16,521	24,456	24,782	326
	34,253	52,416	51,379	-1,037
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	8,066	12,702	12,099	-603
Scottish Welfare Fund				
- Community Care Grants	649	555	785	230
- Crisis Grants	169	246	217	-29
	818	801	1,002	201
Discretionary Housing Payments	1,569	2,261	2,052	-209
Advice Services				
- Money Advice	180	244	244	0
- Income Maximisation	130	182	170	-12
- Citizens Advice Bureau	743	1,229	1,229	0
	1,053	1,655	1,643	-12
GROSS WELFARE BUDGET	45,759	69,835	68,175	-1,660
Income				
DWP - HB Subsidy	(34,172)	(52,295)	(51,258)	1,037
DWP – Discretionary Housing Payments	(786)	(1,179)	(1,179)	-
CAB - HRA Income recharge	-	(124)	(124)	-
	(34,958)	(53,598)	(52,561)	1,037
NET WELFARE BUDGET	10,801	16,237	15,614	(623)

Scottish Welfare Fund

The Scottish Government's Scoring Matrix

	High	Medium	Low
Need	Immediate Severe	Less immediate Less severe	Not time critical
Vulnerability	Highly	Moderately	Some resilience
Consequences of no grant to health/ wellbeing	Significantly adverse	Moderately adverse	No identifiable effect
Effect of grant	Immediate Substantial	Noticeable	Minor