

Financial Health Check

Here are more details of the Scottish Government's Financial Health Check service. This new FHC service, which was launched on 2nd November aims to ensure that low income families with children and older people can access good quality financial advice, including on benefit uptake and on aspects of the poverty premium which sees the poorest pay more for basic services because they have limited choice. The service is expected to help at least an additional 15,000 households in Scotland per year.

The Financial Health Check is being delivered by the Citizens Advice Network in Scotland.

We have just received word that the Scottish Government has launched a campaign to promote the Financial Health Check service. A media campaign was launched on Monday 7 January 2019 promoting the Financial Health Check, and will run throughout the month with radio adverts and press articles with Council Tax Reduction being featured along with benefit take up, help with fuel costs, and other support for low income families.

For information, the initiative is available to anyone who wants it, but there are certain target groups who are encouraged in particular to contact the service. These include:-

- Lone parent families
- Families which include a disabled adult or child
- Larger families
- Minority ethnic families
- Families with a child under one year old
- Families where the mother is under 25 years of age
- Older people and those approaching pension age

Although mainly affecting the Citizens Advice Service, the campaign may prompt enquiries to other organisations, so for info, the service can be accessed by telephoning the free-phone helpline number, which is **0800 085 7145**.