

## New Financial Health check

Please find attached information about the Financial Health Check which was launched in Scotland on Friday.

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

The service can be accessed by telephoning the free-phone helpline number, which is 0800 085 7145.

There is information below, attached and on the Scottish Government website at <https://www.gov.scot/news/financial-health-checks-begin/>

Financial Health Check - Elements
1. Scottish Welfare Fund
2. Benefit uptake
3. Reserved benefits, e.g. Universal Credit/tax credits, maternity allowance
4. School clothing grant
5. Free school meals
6. Healthy Start / Best Start Foods (from summer 2019)
7. Baby Box
8. Sure Start Maternity Grant (until Dec 2018) / Best Start Grant (from Dec 18)
9. Council Tax Reduction
10. Warmer Homes (online energy tool: <a href="https://hec-scotland.est.org.uk/">https://hec-scotland.est.org.uk/</a> )
11. Fuel poverty/Switching supplier/
12. Energy Consumer policy (services and schemes to reduce energy costs)
13. Credit Unions, including mid-cost credit facilities, and jam-jar accounts
14. Basic Bank Accounts
15. Debt Advice
16. Discretionary Housing Payments
17. Broadband and mobile phones