

(Region varies)

Also see policy positions on State Pensions, Poverty and Financial Disadvantage, and Employment

December 2021

The benefit and entitlement systems should ensure an adequate income for people in retirement and for younger people who are unable to work for reasons such as disability or caring responsibilities. Benefits designed to boost income for those in work should ensure that work pays.

Introduction

In addition to the State Pension, there are a range of different social security entitlements. These can be means-tested, based on NI contributions, or linked to circumstances such as age or disability. Benefits make an important difference to the lives of many people although some find the process of finding out about entitlements and making an application difficult and many people are missing out on money due to them. The biggest change in recent years has been the introduction of Universal Credit, replacing 6 working age benefits and tax credits. Some benefits have been devolved to the Scottish Parliament including Attendance Allowance and the Winter Fuel Payment.

Key issues

1. Universal Credit and older people

Although Universal Credit is a , since May 2019 pensioners with a partner under State Pension age, who need to claim means-tested benefits, must

