

## Community Help & Advice Initiative (CHAI)

Riverside House, 502 Gorgie Road  
Edinburgh EH11 3AF  
Phone: 0131 442 1009  
Email:  
chai@chaiedinburgh.org.uk  
Web: [www.chaiedinburgh.org.uk](http://www.chaiedinburgh.org.uk)

Scottish Charity No. SC. 027594

# Maximise!

Income - Wellbeing - Attainment - Potential

## NEWSLETTER



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### ABOUT CHAI

CHAI is a registered Scottish charity providing free and independent advice to people affected by housing, debt and benefit issues in Edinburgh and Midlothian.

Our objectives are:

- To relieve poverty
- To provide welfare assistance
- To provide practical help
- To provide information, advice and support on issues such as housing, debt, benefits and employability.

### ABOUT CHILDREN 1ST

Children First is a Scottish charity which aims to give every child in Scotland a safe and secure childhood.

They help Scotland's families to put children first, with practical advice and with support in difficult times.

## Child turning 16? Here's what you need to know!

Some benefits **automatically stop on 31 August after your child turns 16**. This applies to Child Benefit, Child Tax Credit and the child element of Universal Credit.

The over 16's can continue to qualify for these benefits after 31 August, until the age of **under 20 maximum**, as long as they are in approved **non-advanced education**, training or registered with a careers service.

**Non-advanced education** must be full-time and can include: Scottish Highers, NVQs and other vocational qualifications up to level 3, but not any courses above HNC level.

**If your 16-year old child is staying on in education**, make sure you **contact HMRC** (for Child benefit and Child Tax Credits) or **the DWP** (for Universal Credit). You'll need to report what your child intends to do for this academic year and give details of their new course details. Try and do this **before September** to avoid losing out.

Make an appointment with us through your school if you need any assistance with this or further advice.

### How to report the changes?



#### Child Tax Credits—HMRC

- On-line:  
[www.gov.uk/manage-your-tax-credits](http://www.gov.uk/manage-your-tax-credits)  
(through your Government Gateway account)
- Phone: 0345 300 3900

#### Child Benefit—HMRC

- On-line:  
[www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-benefit-child-continuing-in-approved-education-or-training-ch297](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-benefit-child-continuing-in-approved-education-or-training-ch297) (through your Government Gateway account)
- Phone: 0300 200 3100

#### Universal Credit—DWP

- Online:  
[www.gov.uk/sign-in-universal-credit](http://www.gov.uk/sign-in-universal-credit)  
(through your UC journal)



## The deadline for your Tax Credits Review is end of July



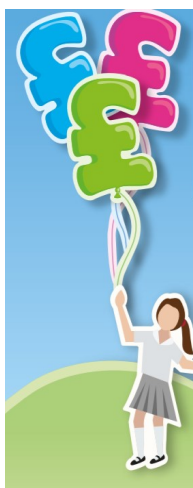
The tax credits system is annual. After the end of the tax year in March of each year, there is an annual review process for you to declare your annual income and confirm your circumstances. **You must complete the review by end of July.**

If your renewal pack has a red line across the first page and says 'reply now' you will need to return the completed form, either by post or online.

If your renewal pack has a black line and says 'check now', you will need to check your details

are correct. If everything is correct, you do not need to do anything and your tax credits will be automatically renewed. But you must **tell HMRC if your circumstances have changed** or anything is incorrect.

Ask us for advice if **you are late with this annual review**, as there is an absolute deadline of 31 January for those who missed the first deadline of July due to mitigating circumstances. More info at: [www.gov.uk/renewing-your-tax-credits-claim](http://www.gov.uk/renewing-your-tax-credits-claim)



## Child turning 5? Claim the Best Start 'School Age Payment' now!

The Best Start Grant 'School Age Payment' is a grant of £250 is for children reaching the age of 5, providing their date of birth falls between 1/3/15 and 29/2/16. You do not

need to take up a place in school to get this. Parents or carers have until the closing date of 28 February 2021 to apply.

The payment can be used for anything from a new pair of shoes to books or arts and crafts materials. Parents who have deferred their child's entry to school from August 2020 to August 2021 should still apply before the closing date on 28 February 2021.

If you are aged over 19, you will be eligible if you or your partner get any of the following benefits: Universal Credit, Income Support, income-based JSA (Jobseeker's Allowance), income-related ESA (Employment and Support Allowance), Pension Credit, Housing Benefit, Child Tax or Working Tax Credits. If you are 18 or 19, the person you live with (i.e. a parent or carer) must claim one of these benefits. If you are under 18, you qualify regardless of income.

The Best Start Grant scheme also includes grants for new-borns (the Pregnancy and Baby Grant) and for toddlers aged 2 and 3.5 (the Early Learning Grant) as well as help with the cost of healthy foods (Best Start Foods). Apply online [www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant](http://www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant) or phone: 0800 182 2222.

**For an appointment, contact your child's school or phone CHAI on 0131 442 2100.**

