

## Welcome to SmallTalk

September 2018

FosterTalk's e-newsletter.

### Carer's allowance explained

If you foster a child who is in receipt of the care component of Disability Living Allowance at the middle or higher rate then, as the child's carer, you are entitled to claim carer's allowance which is paid at £62.70 per week.

To claim the allowance go to [www.gov.uk/carers-allowance/how-to-claim](http://www.gov.uk/carers-allowance/how-to-claim). Carer's allowance is taxable income and will be included in your income if you claim Working Tax Credit. If you would like to speak to one of our tax and benefits advisors, call us on **01527 836910**.

### Supporting disabled children, young people and their families

The Scottish Government has launched a consultation on a resource designed to improve the experiences of disabled children, young people, and their families by providing clear, accessible information on national policies, entitlements, rights and the different options for support available. Further information on this consultation is available [here](#). The closing date is **5 September 2018**.

### August Bank Holiday offers

Whether you fancy a spot of gardening, DIY or a day trip out, remember to look at the discounts page on our website to see all the latest offers available. Take a look [here](#).



### Communications survey 2018

We are in the process of reviewing our services and your feedback will help shape how we communicate with you. All completed surveys will be entered into a draw to win a **£20 Marks & Spencer voucher**. Enter [here](#) before **30<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018**.

### Funding available for school uniform and sports kits in



Parents across Wales could be entitled to £125 to help cover the cost of school uniforms, sports kit and kit for sports and activities outside of school such as scouts and guides.

The new fund, PDG Access, is targeted at learners who are eligible for free school meals or children who are looked after and are going into reception class or Year 7 in September and aged 4 or 11 in special schools, Special Educational Needs (SEN) Units or Pupil Referral Units.

The fund will also cover funding for equipment for out of school hours trips, including outdoor learning, and equipment for activities within the curriculum, such as design and technology. Read more [here](#).

### Education plans for looked after children & care leavers

Only **6%** of young people with experience of the care system will attend university. Often, lack of information about available support, options and low confidence are key barriers to potential applicants.

Financial support in particular can often be a major concern for young people and foster carers. Our education advisor provides some guidance on how foster carers can support their young people to continue their education and improve this low statistic. You can read this article [here](#).

### Facing an allegation or complaint?

Where a fostering service Agency Decision Maker (ADM) has made a Qualifying Determination (decision) for de-registration or change of terms of approval, and the foster carer wishes for this to be given further independent consideration; they can apply to the IRM in England or Wales. Or by a different panel in Scotland or N. Ireland.

**FISS** offers invaluable support to carers navigating their way through the post allegation and review process. Find out more about the IRM [here](#) or to speak to a member of the allegation support team call us on **01527 836910**.