

# The Caxton Foundation

## July 2015 Update

### Regular Payments

Following the Caxton board meeting in May, we were pleased to announce that we are able to run a regular payments scheme again in 2015/16. The scheme was introduced last year to provide some additional financial support to Caxton beneficiaries who are on the lowest incomes. Last year we were able to make payments to 185 households whose incomes were below the 70% median income benchmark. This represented 19% of all Caxton primary beneficiary and bereaved households.

Payments in respect of 2014/15 were paid as a lump sum at the end of March 2015. For 2015/16, payments for April, May and June 2015 were paid as a lump sum in the middle of June. Payments for the remainder of 2015/16 will be paid monthly from July 2015 onwards.

To be eligible to receive a regular payment this year, your household income must be below the levels set out below, according to the number of people in your household:

	To be eligible for support, your household income must be under
Sole adult with no children	£10,730
Sole adult with 1 child	£16,016
Sole adult with 2 children or more	£21,301
Adult with Partner and no children	£16,016
Adult with Partner and 1 child	£21,301
Adult with Partner and 2 children or more	£26,586

Caxton has to set the level of regular payments at a rate which is affordable within the annual allocation we receive from the Department of Health, and the other calls upon our funding, in particular grants. Because of this, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to run a regular payments scheme every year – although we would hope to do so – and we also cannot guarantee that the payments can be made at the same level as in the previous year. It is for these reasons that the payments for this year are at a lower level than last year. We would also strongly advise that the payments should not be relied upon, given the fact that the scheme could be withdrawn from one year to the next, or payments reduced, dependent upon Caxton's financial position in any one financial year.

Whilst we have written individually to all primary beneficiaries and bereaved spouses/partners about the scheme, we would just like to remind everyone to let us know if your circumstances change during the course of the year and you think you might now be eligible for a regular payment.

### Grants

Grants continue to be one of the most significant ways in which Caxton supports beneficiaries.

Some grant applications can be processed through the staff team through what are referred to as "Office Guidelines". Other requests, usually those of a higher cost, are considered by the National Welfare Committee (NWC), which is a subcommittee of the board. It meets approximately every 6 weeks to consider grant applications.

Dates for the NWC meetings for the rest of 2015 are as follows:

Wednesday 12 August 2015  
Thursday 1 October 2015  
Thursday 5 November 2015  
Thursday 10 December 2015

Information for grant applications needs to be received in the office no later than 10 working days in advance of the NWC meeting, otherwise it will not be considered until the following meeting. However, provisions are in place for emergency applications to be considered, and if you believe your case is an emergency, please contact Nicole Hornby, [nicole@GRO-C](mailto:nicole@GRO-C) or [GRO-C](mailto:GRO-C).

Once we have received all the information we need to consider an application, it takes an average of 10 working days for us to make a decision on grant requests being considered by NWC, and an average of 4 working days for grants that can be processed through the office.

### **Retrospective grants**

Just a reminder that we will not normally award retrospective grants, that is grants for purchases that have already been made, as it is harder to establish charitable need for something that has already been purchased. Retrospective grants will only be made where an expense or purchase is so urgent or necessary that it cannot wait, eg funeral costs. Retrospective requests will always be considered by the NWC. If you believe your case is an emergency, please contact Nicole Hornby on [nicole@GRO-C](mailto:nicole@GRO-C) or [GRO-C](mailto:GRO-C).

More information about grants and the application process can be found on the "How we can support you" page of the Caxton website, [www.caxtonfoundation.org.uk](http://www.caxtonfoundation.org.uk). A copy of the grant application form can also be printed from the website.

## **Winter Fuel Payments**

Caxton is hoping to make a winter fuel payment to primary beneficiary and bereaved spouse/partner households again this year. However, we will not be in a position to decide whether a payment can be made, and if so, how much, until the board meets in November. The amount of any payment will be dependent upon Caxton's financial situation at the time. If a payment is made, unfortunately we cannot guarantee that it will be at the same level as in previous years. If we are able to make a payment, we would hope to do so in December 2015. As in previous years, we will be writing to everyone before this time asking for everyone to confirm their bank details. We do this to ensure that the money goes into the correct account, as people often change accounts during the course of the year, and for audit purposes.

## **Benefits and Money Management Advice**

We would like to remind everyone that Caxton is able to refer beneficiaries to a specialist Benefits Adviser, who can advise on a wide range of benefits-related issues. We are also able to refer beneficiaries to a specialist adviser on debt and money management issues. Both services are free to Caxton beneficiaries. If you would like assistance in this way, please contact Nicole to discuss a referral ([nicole@GRO-C](mailto:nicole@GRO-C) or [GRO-C](mailto:GRO-C)).

### ***Transfer from Disability Living Allowance (DLA) to Personal Independence Payments (PIP)***

It has just been announced that all people with existing long-term and indefinite awards of DLA will be invited to claim PIP from 13 July 2015 onwards. This will be done gradually over a period of approximately two years, starting with people living in the following areas:

Blackburn, Bolton, Derby, Leicester, Manchester, Oldham, Preston, Stoke-on-Trent, Warrington and Wigan

The Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) has said that by late 2017, all existing DLA claimants (aged 16 to 64 on 8 April 2013) will have been invited to claim PIP.

If you are contacted and invited to claim PIP, we would encourage you to get in touch with us to discuss a potential referral to Neil Bateman, our specialist benefits adviser. Neil has also recommended that you seek advice if you are awarded ESA with the work related activity component.

### **Prescription Charges**

This is just a reminder that the Department of Health has a scheme to enable primary beneficiaries to claim a Prescription Pre-payment Certificate through the Skipton Fund if they are not otherwise exempt from prescription charges. The cards cover the cost of prescription charges. Two forms need to be completed by those who are applying for a PPC. To apply you must complete the Skipton Fund prescription pre-payment certificate application form along with a FP95 form and both forms will need to be returned to the Skipton Fund office. Both forms can be printed from the payments section of the Skipton Fund's website ([www.skiptonfund.org.uk](http://www.skiptonfund.org.uk)) or you can contact the Skipton Fund office to request them through the post 020 7808 1160. On receipt of the completed forms, applications will be sent for processing and the PPC will be sent directly to you by the NHS Business services Authority.

### **Political developments**

Since the last Caxton update was sent out in December 2014, the issue of support to people who were infected with contaminated blood has received much political attention.

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Haemophilia & Contaminated Blood published its report in January 2015, and in March 2015 the Penrose Inquiry report was published. Following the publication of Penrose, the Prime Minister made an apology in the House of Commons to all those who had been affected. He also announced that up to an additional, one-off £25 million would be made available in this financial year "to support any transitional arrangements to a better payment system". At the current time, we have no information about how much, if any, of the £25 million Caxton may receive to provide additional support to beneficiaries.

### **Changes to the Caxton Board and appointment of new Chair**

There have been a number of changes to the Caxton board this year.

Ann Lloyd, who was Chair of Caxton from March 2013, stepped down on 13 March 2015. Charles Lister, Deputy Chair, stepped down on 30 April 2015. Both stood down from the board due to other

commitments. Richard Finlay, who has been a board member since 2011, took on the role of Interim Chair from 14 March. Richard, who chairs the National Welfare Committee (NWC), temporarily stood aside as Chair of NWC whilst he was Interim Chair of the board.

We undertook a recruitment campaign for a new Chair and new board members during April and May 2015, including placing adverts in the national online press.

We are delighted to announce that as a result, Chris Pond has been appointed the new Chair of Caxton. Chris is a partner and Head of Public Affairs at Kreab. He was previously a director of the Financial Services Authority from 2007 to 2012, and Chief Executive of Gingerbread (the National Council for One Parent Families) from 2005 to 2007. He also chaired Capacitybuilders, a public body charged with distributing improvement funds to charities and social enterprises and served as a non-executive with HMRC. Prior to this, Chris was Labour MP for Gravesham in Kent from 1997 to 2005. During this time, he was Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in the Department for Work & Pensions, Parliamentary Private Secretary in the Treasury and a member of the Social Security Select Committee. Before entering Parliament, Chris was Director of the Low Pay Unit, where he successfully campaigned for the introduction of the minimum wage. Chris is currently also Chair of the Standards Board of the Equity Release Council, Chair of The Money Charity, a Trustee of the Family & Daycare Trust and Director of Cape Claims Services Ltd, a fund established by industry to consider claims for asbestos-related diseases.

As a result of the recruitment process we have also appointed another new board member, Siobhain Butterworth. Siobhain is a lawyer with considerable experience in the media and healthcare publishing sectors. She has also worked as a journalist. She is currently General Counsel and Company Secretary for BMJ Publishing Group. Siobhain's previous roles include Readers' Editor for The Guardian and Legal Director for Guardian News and Media (publisher of The Guardian and The Observer). As Readers' Editor she acted as The Guardian's internal ombudswoman, responding to complaints and comments from readers about the newspaper's journalism and writing a weekly column.

## Partnership Group

Because of the changes to the Caxton board this year, we were unable to organise a Partnership Group meeting in the Spring as we had originally planned. However, now that we have a new Chair in place, we will be organising a meeting of the Group for the autumn.

As previously, the minutes of the next meeting will be posted on the Caxton website: [www.caxtonfoundation.org.uk/about-us-sb-php](http://www.caxtonfoundation.org.uk/about-us-sb-php)

## Contacting us

A reminder of the contact details for current frontline Caxton staff:

Victoria Prouse, Director of Operations  
Nicole Hornby, Welfare Officer  
Joyce Materego, Director of Finance  
Daniel Thompson, Finance Assistant

GRO-C	<a href="mailto:victoria@">victoria@</a>	GRO-C
	<a href="mailto:nicole@">nicole@</a>	GRO-C
	<a href="mailto:joyce@">joyce@</a>	GRO-C
	<a href="mailto:daniel@">daniel@</a>	GRO-C

*If you have received this update in hard copy format, and would like to receive future updates by email, please email Victoria Prouse, [victoria@](mailto:victoria@) GRO-C and she will add your name to our email distribution list.*