

Winter 2019

Prospectus

NEWS FROM PROSPECT COMMUNITY HOUSING

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NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

AS THE NEW YEAR BEGINS, HERE'S SOME RESOLUTIONS TO MAKE POSITIVE CHANGES FOR 2019



1 KEEP WARM AND SAVE ENERGY

- Check to see if you're eligible for a warm home discount, see page 2 for more information
- Don't pay more than you need for your energy bills- shop around and make sure you take advantage of the new energy price cap from 1 January 2019
- Contact SCOREscotland on **0131 442 2341** for free energy advice in your home

3 ORGANISE YOUR FINANCES

- Have you got Contents Insurance? Protect your possessions, ask us for more information about affordable options
- Find out more about Universal Credit- you, or your friends of family may be asked to apply for it this year. See page 3 for more information
- Live in a large property with bedrooms you don't use? Make 2019 the year you contact us about help to move to a smaller property. We still offer £500 to tenants who downsize and will support you with making the move

2 RECYCLE AND REDUCE RUBBISH

- Having a clear out after Christmas? Remember you can organise a special uplift by calling CEC on **0131 608 1100**
- Own a car which is no longer roadworthy? Increase the parking spaces available by getting rid of it. You'll maybe make yourself some cash by contacting a local scrap merchant to uplift it

4 TRY SOMETHING NEW!

You could try some new tastes and recipes with Tasting Change. See their Facebook page for all the latest information about cooking sessions, meals and events. Or come along to the Friday lunch at WHALE from 1PM-2PM.

MAKEOVER FOR BARN PARK CRESCENT

Our painting programme continues as Barn Park Crescent is the latest street to have experienced a Prospect "make over". The painting work has also included harling repairs. Our painting team are concentrating on internal stairs over the winter and will begin again on the external paintwork in the better weather.



- **Web:** www.prospectch.org.uk
- **Email:** enquiries@prospectch.org.uk
- **Tel:** 0131 458 5480
- **Text:** 07860 047548
- **Twitter:** @prospectch

Prospect Community Housing
6 Westburn Avenue
Wester Hailes
Edinburgh
EH14 2TH

Prospect Community Housing is a registered charity. No. SC029797



EXTRA MONEY TO POWER/HEAT YOUR HOME THIS WINTER!

Did you know that you could get £140 off your electricity bill this winter under the **Warm Home Discount Scheme**?

The money is not paid to you but is a one-off discount on your electricity bill, between September and March. You may be able to get the discount on your gas bill instead if your supplier provides you with both gas and electricity. You can contact your supplier to find out. The discount will not affect your Cold Weather Payment or Winter Fuel Payment.

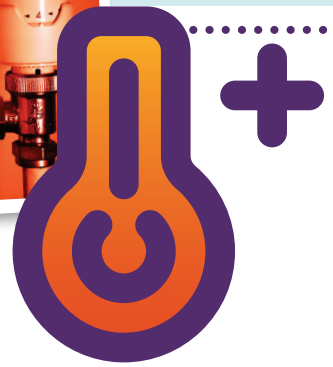
PRE-PAY OR PAY-AS-YOU-GO METERS

You can still qualify for the discount if you use a pre-pay or pay-as-you-go electricity meter. Your electricity supplier can tell you how you'll get the discount if you're eligible, for example a voucher you can use to top up your meter.

ELIGIBILITY

There are 2 ways to qualify for the Warm Home Discount Scheme:

- you get the Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit - known as the 'core group'. You should get a letter from the Pension Service telling you how to claim if you are in this group
- you're on a low income and meet your energy supplier's criteria for the scheme - known as the 'broader group'. If you are on benefits or a low income and think you might be eligible you can apply via your fuel supplier's website. If you need help with this **Fiona**, our **Welfare Rights Officer** can help you claim - call her on **0131-272-5038** to make an appointment.



CHRISTMAS TREE UPLIFT

The City of Edinburgh Council are uplifting real Christmas trees. Please ensure they are kerbside to be recycled on 23 January 2019 if you live in:

- Walkers
- Westburn
- Morvenside
- Barn Park Crescent
- Dumbeg
- Clovenstone
- Murrayburn Gardens

GOOD NEWS FOR CARERS AND NEW PARENTS IN SCOTLAND

Scotland now has a new Scottish benefit agency, **Social Security Scotland** which is taking over control of some of the benefits previously administered by the Westminster government. These are:

- Personal Independence Payment
- Disability Living Allowance
- Severe Disablement Allowance
- Industrial Injuries Benefits
- Cold Weather Payments
- Winter Fuel Payments
- Discretionary Housing Payments
- Funeral Expenses Payments
- Sure Start Maternity Grant
- Attendance Allowance
- Carer's Allowance

The new agency has already taken charge of Carer's Allowance, a benefit paid to people caring for adults or children with a disability. Since June 2018, all claimants in Scotland have received extra money (£8.50 a week) which is paid in a quarterly lump sum and does not count as income for means tested benefits.

From Christmas 2018, new parents in Scotland who are on certain benefits

will receive the Best Start Grant. This replaces the Sure Start Grant of £500 payable for a first child. The new grant will be more generous (£600 initially with two further payments of £250 made when the child is due to start nursery and school) and it will also be payable for every new baby and not just for the first child in the family.

Other benefits in the list above will come under Scottish control over the next few years. We will keep you updated on any changes! In the meantime, if you have any queries please contact our Welfare Rights Officer **Fiona McLuckie (0131-272-5038/fiona.mcluckie@prospectch.org.uk)** who can give you further information and advice.



Social Security Scotland
Tèarainteachd Shòisealta Alba



UNIVERSAL CREDIT – DON'T PANIC!

HERE'S ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW



Universal Credit is a new benefit which has now been rolled out in Edinburgh. If your circumstances change you might be asked to apply for it.

1 What benefits does it replace?

Housing Benefit, Employment and Support Allowance, Job Seeker's Allowance, Income Support and Tax Credits. Instead of receiving these separately, you will receive one monthly payment.

2 Who will this benefit affect?

Working age people who have a change of circumstance. Check with us if you are told by DWP to claim Universal Credit (UC) and we can confirm which benefit you need to apply for.

3 How is Universal Credit different?

Instead of receiving potentially lots of different benefits, you will receive one monthly payment. This will be paid into a bank account. You will need to apply for this benefit online and keep in touch with DWP via an online internet account or "Universal Credit journal". You will need to budget this monthly payment to make sure you have enough money to pay your bills (including your Prospect rent) each month. You will need to apply for Council Tax Reduction separately from City of Edinburgh Council for help to pay your Council Tax.

4 What happens if I'm on Universal Credit already?

You'll be invited to reclaim under the new Universal Credit system. Do not ignore this letter from DWP. We can help. You will need to reclaim in early 2019 or your payments will be at risk.

5 What happens if I'm receiving benefits but nothing changes?

There will be no change and you'll continue to receive your current benefits. It may be several years before you are asked to move onto Universal Credit.

6 What do I need to do to be ready for Universal Credit?

- Open a bank account if you don't already have one.
- Make sure you have identification.
- Think about where you can access the internet. You will need to apply and manage your claim online.

7 How can Prospect help?

We can help with:

- Checking that Universal Credit is the right benefit for you – speak to your Housing Officer, or our Welfare Rights Officer, Fiona McLuckie if you have a change of circumstances.
- Confirming your rent for Universal Credit. We'll let you know when we do this and remind you to update your Universal Credit journal.
- Agreeing and setting up ways to pay your rent to Prospect. You will need to pay your rent directly to us as we won't receive it from Housing Benefit for you anymore.
- Providing internet access. We have 3 computers available to use in our Community Room. We can help with making a claim and using your journal.
- Keeping your Universal Credit journal updated.
- Applying for Discretionary Housing Payments from City of Edinburgh Council if you are under occupying. We can help you apply.

KEEP IN TOUCH – WE'RE HERE TO HELP WITH **UNIVERSAL CREDIT**

BENEFITS AND DEBT ADVICE

- Problems with Housing Benefit, ESA or Universal Credit?
- Been sanctioned, refused benefit or lost your job?
- Struggling financially and could do with a benefit check &/or help with budgeting?
- Have rent arrears or debts you can't manage?

MONDAYS

Clovenstone Community Centre,
Clovenstone Park
9.30am – 10.30am Drop In
10.30am – 1pm Appointments

WEDNESDAYS

Wester Hailes Healthy Living Centre
9.30am – 10.00am Drop In
10.00am – 12.30pm Appointments



DROP IN TO PROSPECT'S OFFICE OR MAKE AN APPOINTMENT:

Phone 0131 272 5038
Text 07860047548
Email fiona.mcluckie@prospectch.org.uk



COMMUNITY ROOM

Our Community Room offers the following facilities to our tenants and local agencies:

- Internet access to check and update benefit awards
- Printer to print wage slips, proof of income etc. for housing benefit
- Phone to contact benefit providers
- Meeting area for small numbers

The room is available to tenants to drop in and use the facilities:

- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday mornings 9am - 1pm
- Wednesday 1pm – 4pm.
- Mondays 9am – 1pm Staff on hand to help.



CATCH UP WITH PROSPECT

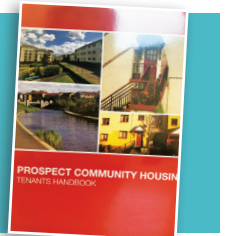
Come along to meet with Housing and Property Staff to look for any issues and answer your questions.



| Street | Date | Time |
|--|-----------------------|----------------|
| Barn Park Crescent | Thursday 7 February | 2pm - 2.30pm |
| Dumbeg Park | Thursday 7 February | 2.30pm - 3pm |
| Morvenside Close | Thursday 7 February | 3pm - 3.30pm |
| Walkers | Tuesday 5 February | 2pm - 3pm |
| Clovenstone Park (starting at No.12) | Wednesday 13 February | 11am - 11.30am |
| Clovenstone Drive (starting at No. 19) | Wednesday 13 February | 11.30am - 12pm |
| Clovenstone Gardens (starting at No. 1) | Wednesday 13 February | 12pm - 12.30pm |
| Westburn Village & Morvenside (starting at Prospect's office) | Monday 18 February | 10am-11.30am |

TENANTS' HANDBOOK

We're looking to update our Tenants' Handbook and we need your help! If you'd like to meet with Gillian Scougall to help us make sure our Prospect handbook contains all the information you need about your tenancy, please get in touch on **0131 272 5023** or email gillian.scougall@prospectch.org.uk



RENT CONSULTATION

Thank you to everyone who filled in the survey we sent out by text, to those who completed and returned the postcards and finally to those of you who shared your views in person with us. We'll be taking your views to our Committee to help them decide on the new rent and service charge from April 2019. We'll let you know what your new rent will be by the end of February 2019.



PLAYPARK CONSULTATIONS

Thanks to the residents who got in touch to share their ideas for the refresh of our play park at Clovenstone. We'll be taking your ideas into account when we start work on the area soon. Next, we'll be contacting Westburn and Morvenside residents for their thoughts on a play area in Westburn.



STAY SAFE IN 2019

Keep your Carbon Dioxide Detector working – contact us if the batteries run out and we will replace them
If you experience a power cut, contact 105
If there is an issue with your water, contact 0800 077 8778

OUR VISION:

PROVIDING HOMES AND BUILDING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

OUR VALUES:

PIONEERING RELIABILITY LISTENING FAIRNESS PARTNERSHIP