

Gordon Macdonald

Member of the Scottish Parliament
for Edinburgh Pentlands

November
2019



The Scottish WELFARE FUND

3,035 Edinburgh Households Helped in Time of Crisis

The Scottish Welfare Fund made 3,035 payments to people in Edinburgh in the last financial year, new figures show — an increase of 12.5% compared to the same period last year.

A total of 760 Community Care Grants and 2,275 Crisis Grants were awarded in Edinburgh between April and June 2019 to help people with essentials such as food, heating costs, and household items.

The SNP introduced the Scottish Welfare Fund in 2013 as part of a £125 million annual package to mitigate UK government austerity.

Since its launch in April 2013, the Fund has paid out more than £200 million to support over 336,000 households across Scotland, with a third of recipients being families with children.

Gordon said, “The Scottish Welfare Fund is a vital lifeline for many people facing poverty or personal crisis.

“The fact that so many households in Edinburgh are in need of emergency financial help is appalling, and a sad indictment of the UK Government’s record on austerity and welfare cuts.

“The Scottish Welfare Fund is an important example of the kind of action the Scottish Government has taken using the powers it currently has to try to mitigate Westminster’s welfare cuts.

“We will continue to do everything in our power to tackle poverty and support low income families but it would be better for all concerned if we had control of all aspects of welfare policy here in Scotland.”

Remembrance Service



St Nicholas Sighthill Parish Church will be holding their annual Remembrance service on Sunday 10 November, 10:45am to 12 noon.

Gordon commented, “I will be attending the service and have done so for many years

“I believe that it is important that we recognise the sacrifice of those who fought against tyranny.”

The service will be attended by the Army, police, and Air cadets, the local MP Joanna Cherry and other community leaders, who will lay a wreath at the altar in honour of those who fell in the line of duty.

A two minute silence will begin at 11am and a procession will take place from Murrayburn Primary School to St Nicholas Church beginning at 10am.

Out and About...

SG Computers Bound for Africa



Gordon welcomed the decision to donate used computer equipment from the Scottish Government to schools and education projects in Malawi, Ghana and Liberia.

The Scottish Government replace IT equipment every four to five years for security requirements.

Gordon said, "I sponsored a debate in Parliament earlier this year calling for this and am pleased that the Scottish Government have taken up my proposal to partner with the Turing Trust to send old IT equipment to Africa".

"The Turing Trust are an excellent charity based in my constituency and this decision will help hundreds of teachers and thousands of children and adults to develop their computer skills and their career prospects."

The Trust have put more than 4,250 computers in hundreds of schools and supported the trained over 530 teachers. The Trust was co-founded by James Turing in honour of his great uncle, World War 2 codebreaker Alan Turing.

New Funding for Care Experienced Young People



The Scottish Government have announced that the Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund is to be increased from £8 million to £12 million.

Gordon commented, "Improving the education and life chances of all our children and young people is the defining mission of the Scottish Government.

"I am delighted that care experienced young people will now benefit from this additional funding."

Support for the Challenge Poverty Week



During the Challenge Poverty Week in October, Gordon was happy to support the Poverty Alliance campaign.

Gordon noted, "The Poverty Alliance is a network of anti-poverty campaigners and organisations."

"The aims of the week are not only to highlight the reality of poverty and challenge the stereotypes, but also to showcase solutions and increase public support for action against poverty."

Contact Details

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Home visit

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Gordon Macdonald MSP



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Monthly Surgeries — No appointment needed

- 1st Monday of the month, 6.30pm Wester Hailes Library
- 2nd Monday of the month, 6.30pm Carrickvale Community Centre
- 3rd Monday of the month, 6.30pm Currie Library
- 4th Monday of the month, 6.30pm Oxfgangs Library (Not 24 Dec)
- 5th Monday of the month, 6.30pm Ratho Com. Centre (Not 31 Dec)

NB: NO SURGERIES DURING PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS

Working for Edinburgh Pentlands