

16th November 2016

The **Potteries Gold** Post

WE'RE BACK!

POTTERIES GOLD FUNDED FOR THREE MORE YEARS!

Today, the Big Lottery announced their latest *Reaching Communities* funding programme – and it included our bid for Potteries Gold 2. This means we'll soon be running more **outreach clinics** in your areas, doing **benefits briefings** to more of your community groups and recruiting more **Potteries Gold Community Champions** to help our city cope with Welfare Reform.

While we've been away...

BENEFITS NEWS SINCE JULY.

- New ministerial team at **Department for Work and Pensions**, including Damian Green as Secretary of State.
- Full roll-out of **Universal Credit** delayed again,
- **Concentrix** to lose Tax Credit contract,
- **ESA** and **PIP** appeal numbers rising,
- Plans to end **ESA reassessments** for people with most severe health problems,
- **Benefit Cap** cut to £20,000 for local families, from **19th December**,
- **Supreme Court** ruling on **Bedroom Tax** test cases.



LOTTERY FUNDED

New Training Programme for Potteries Gold Community Champs.

We're going to be running our **monthly meetings** differently, with the information and training session in the first hour and time to swap news and chat afterwards. We hope this will make it easier for people with limited time or family commitments to take part.

Our new day for regular meetings will be the **first Monday** of the month (unless it's a Bank Holiday) from **1.30pm** to **3.30pm**. Our first meeting, when we'll look in more detail at some of benefits news since we last met and celebrate being back together, will be on **Monday 5th December**.

There will still be biscuits!

Don't forget, if you can't make our usual meeting, you can catch up on the month's benefits news at **Lunch Club** on the **third Wednesday** of each month from **1pm** to **2pm** and you can attend our **Advice House** training courses for FREE!

We'll also be producing **The Potteries Gold Post** as a regular benefits newsletter from now on, with clear and concise information suitable for your community noticeboards. Look out for our next edition soon!



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