

Date: 5th January 2017

The **Potteries Gold** Post

MORE MISSING MILLIONS!

£100 MILLION OF UNCLAIMED BENEFITS FOR STOKE-ON-TRENT CITIZENS!

Back in 2013, we saw DWP figures that up to **£16 billion** of 'means-tested' Social Security benefits across the UK were unclaimed. We worked out that, on a rough calculation, about **£50 million** of that could be due to local people.

Our friends at the **City Council** have recently been looking at some more up-to-date figures and, according to their much more scientific sums, **we got it wrong...**

The real figure could be closer to **£100 million!**

Who's missing out?

Pensioners! An estimated **£2,860 million** of **Pension Credit** remains unclaimed, by **1.34 million people**. The take-up rate is estimated at **63%** of eligible persons and **70%** by value. Average weekly payments are **£57** with the mean estimated weekly amount unclaimed is **£41**.

Based on national averages, **in Stoke-on-Trent**, there are:

- **5,650** eligible persons not claiming Pension Credit,
- Between them, not claiming **£12.1 million** per year.

But it's not only Pensioners who don't claim...



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The Council's calculations also estimate:

- 5,100 people not claiming **Income Support** or **Employment and Support Allowance**, missing out on **£24.7 million** per year.
- 2,000 eligible persons not claiming **Jobseeker's Allowance**, between them, due around **£9.7 million** per year.
- 5,560 eligible persons not claiming **Housing Benefit**, between them due an additional **£16.8 million** per year.
- **£20.9** and **£33.6 million** of unclaimed **Tax Credits**, most due to working families.

Additionally, the Council estimates there will also be at least **£10 million per annum** of unclaimed PIP, DLA for children, Attendance Allowance, Carer's Allowance, Council Tax Support and other benefits.

What can we do?

Most people who could claim these benefits don't know about them. Others are afraid to claim, in case they are paid too much and get into trouble, feel ashamed to claim, or had a bad experience in the past.

This is why we need **Community Champions** sharing **accurate** and **positive** information about benefits with their friends, colleagues and neighbours. Benefits get spent in local communities – imagine what an extra **£100 million per year** could do to boost our High Street shops and local businesses! If you would like to know more, you can follow **Potteries Gold** on **Facebook** and **Twitter**.

If you would like to be a Community Champion, please contact Sarah Honeysett (sarah.honeysett@snsCab.org.uk) on **01782 408633**, but please *don't* call this number for advice unless you are already one of our Champions and have a non-urgent query (Sarah works part-time and is often out of the office).

Our public **Adviceline number** is **03444 111 444** .

