



Potteries Gold

A Missing £1 Million every week?

Back in 2013, Potteries Gold launched our campaign to find Stoke-on-Trent's Missing Millions - an estimated fifty million pounds of unclaimed benefits that was due to people in our city. This week, we're going to help you look for more missing millions!

But we're also highlighting another potential missing £1 million - the money that could be lost to our local economy if the Chancellor takes away the £20 Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit uplift in next week's Budget...

KEEP THE LIFELINE!

With over **30,000 households** on **Universal Credit** in Stoke-on-Trent, 8,800 more in Newcastle and over 5,000 in the Staffs Moorlands, a **£20 cut** to their benefits takes **over £875,000 per week** out of our local economy...

"A cut of £20 per week is **over £1040 per year!**"



... Add claims for **Working Tax Credit**, and the cut could be **over £1 million lost** to local families - and the local economy - **every week!**

That's why we are calling on the Chancellor to **#KeepTheLifeline!**

FINDING OUR MISSING MILLIONS!

We don't have an up-to-date figure for **unclaimed means-tested benefits** but according to entitled.to, it's likely to be about **£15 billion** for 2020/2021. We estimate that **North Staffordshire** could be entitled to **over £120 million** of that! Many of the statistics they had to use are out-of-date and there are **no figures at all** available for **unclaimed Universal Credit**, but they give us a clue where we should start looking for our **missing millions**.



The latest figures suggest over **900,000 pensioner households** entitled to **Pension Credit** don't claim it, and around **£1,560 million per year** is unclaimed.

There is **no capital limit** for Pension Credit, so savings won't automatically stop you qualifying.

You are **more likely** to get Pension Credit if you get **Attendance Allowance**.

Pension Credit rates have **risen faster** than other benefits and many occupational pensions, so **check every year** to see if you qualify!

Housing Benefit, Council Tax Support and even Child Benefit are all badly underclaimed.

We'll be updating all of our **Potteries Gold** benefits information leaflets after the Budget, and we'll tell you more about these benefits and more in future newsletters.

SOME BENEFITS HISTORY FOR LGBTQ+ HISTORY MONTH

Until the **Civil Partnerships Act 2004**, UK Social Security law treated **gay** and **lesbian couples** as **single people**. This could work to your advantage for means-tested benefits, but denied many people widows' or widowers' benefits and pensions if their long-term partner passed away.

Benefit regulations often lag behind **changes in society**. Couples who are **unmarried or not in civil partnerships** still miss out on **bereavement benefits**. Citizens Advice will continue to campaign against **discrimination** and injustice in the benefits system and elsewhere.



Potteries Gold is a **Citizens Advice Staffordshire North & Stoke-on-Trent** project to help people in Stoke-on-Trent cope with changes to the benefit system

« **Online Talks and Training for community groups** »

« **PIP/ESA Workshops** » **Benefit Leaflets**

« **The Potteries Gold Post** » **Volunteering** »

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