# **Marie Curie Benefit Take-up Project**

## **Severely disabled people and unclaimed benefits: study of take-up initiatives and campaigns**

### **Questionnaire**

This study seeks to explore current or recent (since 2019) take-up campaigns and other initiatives aimed at tackling unclaimed benefits among severely disabled people and people who have serious long-term health conditions (including those with life-limiting (terminal) illness), their families and carers.

The overall research project (a wider study of issues around benefit take-up among these groups) is led by Dr. Joanna Davies, of King’s College London. The present survey of benefit take-up initiatives and campaigns (the subject of this questionnaire) is being undertaken by Geoff Fimister, who has over 50 years’ experience in the area of social security and related issues.

The research is funded by Marie Curie, who have a particular focus on people who are terminally ill, their families and carers. However, this questionnaire survey is concerned more widely with people who are substantially disabled or have long-term health conditions. We think that the lessons learned will potentially apply to all of the above groups.

We are interested in benefits such as:

* Personal Independence Payment (Adult Disability Payment in Scotland)
* Attendance Allowance
* Universal Credit (for disabled people)
* Housing Benefit (for disabled pension age claimants)
* Pension Credit (where the target group is disabled pensioners)
* Council Tax Support/ Reduction (formerly Council Tax Benefit)
* Carers’ benefits.

We would also be interested in take-up campaigns and initiatives targeting other benefits, where the main focus is on severely disabled people and people who have serious long-term health conditions.

(We are not, in this project, looking at benefits for disabled children).

A key aim of this survey will be to develop ideas and good practice guidance to be widely disseminated, for example to: central and local government; health service practitioners; and advice service providers.

We may, in our survey report, refer to your service by name unless you ask us not to. None of our questions requires individual claimants to be identified – please comprehensively anonymise any case illustrations.

It would be a great help if you would complete this questionnaire and return it

by **29 February 2024**

to gfimister@blueyonder.co.uk

with a copy to gfimister@googlemail.com

#### **About you and your organisation**

**Question 1:** Please provide your name and e-mail address.

 Name:

 E-mail address:

 [We shall not include these details in our survey report].

**Question 2:** Please provide the name and postal address (so we know the location) of your organisation.

 Name of organisation:

 Postal address:

 [If you do not wish the name of your organisation to appear in our survey report, please type “do not identify” here]:

**Question 3:** May we contact you if we need additional information?

Please type answer here:

#### **About your benefit take-up initiative or campaign**

(NB if you wish to tell us about more than one, please complete this questionnaire separately for each).

**Question 4:** when did it start (month & year)?

Please type answer here:

**Question 5:** Is it still ongoing (if so, till when)?

Please type answer here:

**Question 6:** If you answered no to question 5, when did it finish?

Please type answer here:

**Question 7:** What was the source of finance for the initiative/ campaign?

Please type answer here:

**Question 8:** What was/ is your expected expenditure?

Please type answer here:

**Question 9:** Was your take-up initiative/ campaign aimed at any particular group (age; type of disability or health condition; users of a particular service etc.)?

Please type answer here:

**Question 10:** Did you work with any other agencies or individuals (for example, health or social services personnel) when delivering your take-up initiative/ campaign?

Please type answer here:

**Question 11:** Please describe briefly how your take-up initiative/ campaign was carried out.

Please type answer here:

#### **About your results**

**Question 12:** How many people were advised or assisted to claim benefit?

Please type answer here:

**Question 13:** If known, how many successful claims were generated?

[Indicate if your figure is for successful claims; or for claimants with successful claims (as there may be more than one benefit claim per claimant)].

[Include partially successful – wherever additional benefit was received, even if you thought there should have been more].

Please type answer here:

**Question 14:** Do you have a breakdown of successful claims between different benefits?

Please type answer here:

**Question 15:** Do you have estimates of amounts gained?

[If so, please indicate how you estimated this].

[Please also indicate if this figure is per week/ month/ year/ other].

Please type answer here:

**Question 16:** Do you have an evaluation report you can let us have?

[If so, please send an electronic copy along with your completed questionnaire].

Please type answer here:

**Question 17:** Do you have plans for further benefit take-up initiatives/ campaigns?

Please type answer here:

Please return this questionnaire (and any accompanying documents)

by **29 February 2024**

to gfimister@blueyonder.co.uk

with a copy to gfimister@googlemail.com

Many thanks for your help.