

## **Citizens Advice in South Lincolnshire launch Pension Credit awareness campaign**

The Research and Campaigns team from Citizens Advice South Lincolnshire are launching a campaign to raise awareness of Pension Credit, a benefit which can be claimed by people over state pension age who have a low income.

Data from Age UK and the government suggests that 39% of people who are entitled to Pension Credit do not receive it. This means there could be at least 1900 people in South Kesteven who are missing out on this important benefit.

Anyone of pension age and living in the UK whose income is under £173.25 per week for a single person and under £265.20 for a couple, who doesn't have much money in savings, may be eligible for Pension Credit.

In addition anyone eligible for Pension Credit can also get help with other things such as:

- Free TV licence for those 75 or over
- Help with council tax and housing benefit
- Cold weather payments
- Help with mortgage interest payments
- Help with prescriptions and hospital transport costs
- A carer may receive a carer's premium with their Pension Credit

Simon Richards, Chief Officer of Citizens Advice South Lincs said, "it is really important that pensioners on low incomes get what they are entitled to. In these uncertain times and with winter approaching, any extra cash and benefits for those in need can be a real boost. We are raising awareness over the next few months via local councillors, local newspapers, Facebook, Twitter, printed flyers and our own staff and volunteers, so that people who need it can come forward and make a claim.'

For those who think they could be eligible, the best way to start is to call the government Pension Credit claim line on 0800 99 1234. It is open from 8am to 7.30pm Monday to

Friday. The staff will be able to make an initial assessment of eligibility straight away. They will ask for National Insurance number and details of income and savings.

Alternatively there is a handy pension credit calculator on the government website <https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator>

It is also worth noting that, when applying, Pension Credit can be backdated 3 months for anyone who was eligible during that time.

Note: Stamford office is now open on Mondays for quick queries – people can be booked in for appointments if needed.