

# FINDINGS FROM CARERS TRUST'S FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

## Freedom of Information request to local authorities regarding the £500 grant for unpaid carers

### Headline Findings

- 1 in 4 eligible unpaid carers didn't receive the £500 grant<sup>1</sup>
- Over 15,000 of the most financially vulnerable unpaid carers in Wales are £500 worse off<sup>2</sup>
- Around £7.6 million in the Welsh benefits system is unclaimed<sup>3</sup>

### The Freedom of Information request

Carers Trust asked the 22 local authorities in Wales how many applications they received for the £500 payment for unpaid carers during the 2022/23 financial year, and how many of those applications were successful.

Carers Trust received responses from all 22 local authorities in Wales.

### Findings

#### **73% of eligible unpaid carers nationally received the £500 payment**

- Bridgend has the highest percentage of eligible carers who received the payment, at 83.4%.

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<sup>1</sup> 27% of eligible unpaid carers captured in our FOI responses, which received responses from all 22 local authorities.

<sup>2</sup> Accurate figure

<sup>3</sup> Accurate figure

- Denbighshire and Anglesey had the lowest, with 64.5% and 65.4% of eligible carers receiving the £500 grant.

Again, there is significant local variation in the administration and effectiveness of the scheme.

Notably, Anglesey and Denbighshire were the **least effective** in reaching eligible carers regarding the £500 grant, but are the local authorities with the **highest** percentage of known carers with a support plan (6%), and therefore most likely to have regular and sustained contact with a larger group of unpaid carers in their area in comparison with other local authorities.

In contrast, Bridgend was the **most effective** at ensuring eligible unpaid carers accessed the £500 but has the **lowest** percentage of known carers having a support plan at only 0.1%.

Understanding what led to variations in uptake for this national benefit, and the different approaches local authorities took to encourage eligible carers to apply with them for the £500, needs further investigating.