



Welfare Funds (Scotland) Act 2015

2015 asp 5

Welfare funds

1 Welfare funds

Each local authority is to maintain a fund (called a “welfare fund”) comprising—

- (a) any grants paid into the fund by the Scottish Ministers, and
- (b) any amounts paid into the fund by the local authority.

2 Use of welfare funds: assistance for short term need and community care

- (1) A local authority may use its welfare fund only in order to provide occasional financial or other assistance to or in respect of individuals for the purposes of—
 - (a) meeting, or helping to meet, an immediate short term need—
 - (i) arising out of an exceptional event or exceptional circumstances, and
 - (ii) that requires to be met to avoid a risk to the wellbeing of an individual, or
 - (b) enabling qualifying individuals to establish or maintain a settled home.
- (2) “Qualifying individuals” means individuals who have been or, without the assistance, might otherwise be—
 - (a) in prison, hospital, a residential care establishment or other institution, or
 - (b) homeless or otherwise living an unsettled way of life.
- (3) The assistance which a local authority may use its welfare fund to provide does not include making loans.
- (4) A local authority may exercise its power under subsection (1) by making a payment to a third party with a view to the third party providing, or arranging the provision of, goods or services to or in respect of an individual.