



# Welfare Funds (Scotland) Act 2015

## 2015 asp 5

### *Welfare funds*

#### **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.

#### **Commencement Information**

- II** S. 2 in force at 1.4.2016 by S.S.I. 2015/428, [art. 2\(2\)](#)

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Welfare Funds (Scotland) Act 2015, Section 2.