



By Emma Aldridge

## Providing a faster service to access benefits and grants

Turn2us, the free, comprehensive service that helps people in financial need access the money available to them, has recently enhanced its Benefits Checker and Grants Search at [www.turn2us.org.uk](http://www.turn2us.org.uk).

Anyone who supports people in financial need can now use the advanced version of the Benefits Checker, for quicker calculations and 'what if' and 'better off' comparisons. A public version of the Benefits Checker still provides a step-by-step, guided facility to estimate entitlement to benefits.

The Turn2us Grants search, which gives access to over 3,500 charitable funds, has also been improved to provide even more criteria to search by and a greater choice of how results are displayed, as well as providing faster results.

The Turn2us website is designed to help people find appropriate sources of financial support, quickly and easily, based on their particular needs and circumstances. As well as the Benefits Checker and Grant Search, the Turn2us website provides:

- Confidential 'My Turn2us' accounts that can be used to save online applications to charitable organisations and save benefit calculations.

- Regular communications through a monthly newsletter
- Information and resources on a wide range of subjects related to welfare benefits, grants and managing money
- Interactive and engaging e-learning resources, which aim to provide a clear understanding of how Turn2us can help front-line workers and volunteers support individuals in financial need.



Free nationwide workshops which give free information and training on using Turn2us are available to all not-for-profit organisations that support people in financial need. Dates of future workshops are available on the Turn2us website.

Turn2us works closely with partner organisations offering face-to-face support to people in financial need to help reach even more people in financial need. In partnership with Home-Start UK and Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG), Home-Start volunteers are receiving training to use the Turn2us tools to help maximise incomes for families full financial entitlements.

Kay Bews, Chief Executive of Home-Start said: "Home-Start with children under the age of five who are not aware of their volunteers support thousands of families every year who are coping with all the pressures that come with bringing up young children - and dealing with financial problems is a large part of this. Our volunteers can make great use of the service Turn2us offers in supporting families even further, and lessen the financial burdens faced by so many when raising a family."

Turn2us grants searches and benefits checks will also be part of the services provided by the new Armed Services Advice Project (ASAP), being run by Citizens Advice Bureaux in Scotland in conjunction with Poppyscotland and other Armed Forces support groups, to provide a focal point for access to advice, information and support for the Armed Forces Community in Scotland.

Alison Taylor, Director of Turn2us, said: "Turn2us has worked with staff at Citizens Advice Scotland, its bureaux and the national helpline to use the Turn2us service so they can help those in financial need to check their entitlement to welfare benefits and to see if they are eligible for help from over 3,500 charitable funds that exist.

"Anyone who has fought for their country deserves the best support and Turn2us aims to help them access this financial help through its service."

If you like more Information on Turn2us, please contact Emma Aldridge [emma.aldridge@turn2us.org.uk](mailto:emma.aldridge@turn2us.org.uk)