

**Councillor Joanna Baker-Rogers – Cabinet Member for Adult
Social Care and Health**

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18th September 2024

Councillor Michael Bennett-Sylvester
Elected Member

Via email: michael.sylvester@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Bennett-Sylvester

Question at Council Meeting – 11th September 2024

Thank you for the question you submitted to the Council meeting on 11th September 2024. I have set out your question and my response below.

It is estimated nearly 4000 Rotherham pensioners fail to claim pension credit that they are entitled to. What extra measures are we putting in place to ensure uptake of this benefit ahead of the December 21st winter fuel allowance cut off?

I can confirm that the Council has an agreement with Age UK Rotherham to provide an Age-Related Benefits Advice Service which any resident of the Borough age 65 or over can access to get information on and make claims to any benefits to which they are entitled.

This has been an ongoing contract for a number of years and has just been renewed for another 3 years up to September 2027.

Residents can self-refer to Age UK or can be referred into the project. The Council doesn't hold sufficient personal information about residents to establish if they will be eligible for the winter fuel allowance.

As you would expect, in light of recent news we are considering what further steps the council might be able to take to support take up.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Joanna Baker-Rogers
Rawmarsh West Ward
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health