

**From:** CEO of Credu

**Date:** 24 May 2021 at 07:18:23 BST

**To:** "Hutt, Jane (Aelod o'r Senedd | Member of the Senedd)

**Subject:** Website Contact

**Message:** Dear Minister,

Would you like to join a small group discussion on Thursday 10th June at 6.00 to discuss economic models that support unpaid family carers.

Throughout the winter we gave Welsh Government grants to unpaid carers that were struggling to choose between food and fuel. They were so glad of the grants, however we wonder how caring can be supported without carers being plunged into poverty. Whether we should look to increase Carers Allowance or have a system of Universal Basic Income?

We would love to explore these issues together with you, unpaid carers and some friendly economists. Hope you can join us.

(CEO @ Credu - we support young and adult carers in Ceredigion, Conwy, Denbighshire, Powys and Wrexham)

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Letter to CEO Credu

28 May 2021

Thank you for your correspondence of 24 May, inviting me to attend a discussion around economic models that support unpaid family carers.

The Covid-19 crisis has demonstrated, perhaps more than ever, the essential role that people caring for a loved one who is older, disabled or seriously ill plays in preventing statutory services from becoming overloaded. Yet we know many of these unpaid carers have low-incomes and, due to their caring responsibilities, are unable to increase their income by working full-time.

I appreciate the support of Credu in managing the applications and distribution of the £1.25m Carers Support Grant, which enabled unpaid carers who were struggling with the additional financial pressures arising from Covid-19 to access small grants to help with purchasing food or essential items, as well as utility bills. We will continue to urge the UK Government to increase the current payment rate of carers allowance to lift carers out of poverty.

I note your particular interest in UBI as a potential mechanism to support unpaid carers who are struggling to make ends meet. Earlier this month, the First Minister committed to testing out the concept of UBI in Wales, through a modest experiential pilot. My officials are in the early stages of developing a framework for the proposed pilot, and are committed to involving social partners in its development to ensure the

pilot is robust in its design and implementation, and that outcomes can be measured effectively. I would be very happy to meet with you once the initial phase of scoping work has been carried out, and a framework for the pilot is in place.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Hutt AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Social Justice