

Background

- A Government change no choice royal assent 8.3.12 now law.
- Affects those predominately of working age (ie up to pension credit age – roughly 62yrs)
- Government aim to get people back into work and change culture of dependency.
- Work and pensions budget largest, more than entire NHS and twice that of education. (18 billion savings by 2015)

Background (cont.)

- Simplify the benefits system
- Make work pay better incentives
- Streamline in / out of work benefits
- Develop 'claimant commitment'
- Increase conditionality and sanctions
- Aimed at 'working age' claimants
- Better use of technology to reduce error

Overview - Main Changes

- Council Tax
- Benefit Capping
- Social Sector Size Criteria 'Bedroom Tax'
- Discretionary Housing Payments
- Welfare Assistance
- Universal Credit
- Position in Leicester
- What are we doing?

Council Tax Reduction Scheme April 2013

- Replaces Council Tax Benefit from April 2013
- Each LA to achieve 10% savings on current spend
- Fixed budget for 2 Years
- Local Scheme agreed by Exec January 2013
- LCC prioritises where support goes
- Pensioners to be protected
- Working Age customers most affected
- All affected will have some Council Tax to
- pay about £ 200 per year for most

Benefit Capping (Summer-September 2013)

- Income limited to £ 500 per week for families
- \circ £ 350 per week for singles
- Working Age claimants only
- Exemptions for: WTC; DLA; PIP; ESA (support element); industrial injuries; attendance allowance; war widows/widowers
- Lose between 50p-£50 (53%)
- Lose above £50 50p HB awarded (passported benefit)
- Only affects Housing related benefits (at present)

Under-occupation (SSSC) 'Bedroom Tax' (April 2013)

- 1 bedroom surplus to needs lose 14% HB (about £12 per week)
- 2+ bedrooms surplus lose 25% HB (about £22 per week)
- Working Age tenants only
- Exemptions for: mooring charges; mobile homes/caravan sites; some temporary accommodation.
- 39 weeks 'grace,' if worked >12 months then lose job through no fault of their own.

Example of what it will cost tenants who under occupy

Weekly Rent	1 Spare Bedroom	2 + spare bedrooms
£65	£9.20	£16.25
£70	£9.80	£17.50
£75	£10.50	£18.75
£80	£11.20	£20.00
£85	£11.90	£21.25
£90	£12.60	£22.50
£100	£13.30	£23.75
£110	£15.40	£27.50
£120	£16.80	£30.00

'Bedroom Tax'

14% less for 1 bed (about £12 per week) 25% less for 2 bed plus (About £22 per week)

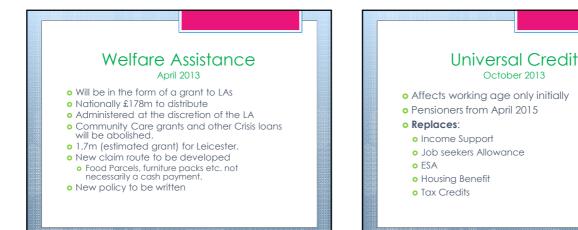
o Based on LHA - One bedroom each allowed for:

• Claimant (& partner)

- Any 2 children <10 years regardless of gender
 Any 2 children of same sex <16 years
- Any child >16 years
- Any other child
- (accept foster children who are NOT considered) • Non-dependants
- A carer (or group of carers) providing over night support.

Discretionary Housing Payments (Additional Housing Benefit) • Increased allocation across the country

- Leicester's policy aims to support families and disabled to remain in their homes while they seek alternative cheaper accommodationCannot support everyone affected by the Welfare
- reform changes eg.. Shared Acc Rate would cost £41K a week
- Benefit capping would cost £72K a week
 Reviewing DHP Policy.
- Foster Carers provision between placements
- Use it or lose it fund.



Universal Credit continued...

- No front facing service
- On line claims
- Telephony based support
- Direct monthly payments in arrears

Universal Credit & HB

- Majority of HB payments will go to the claimant and not the landlord
 Only 20% of payments in the social sector housing claimants will be paid direct to landlord through the 'default exception scheme'
- One single monthly payment in arrears.
- Households could get £2000+ to cover, food, living expenses, rent, child care etc.
- Third party payment will be catered for (Power of Attorney etc.)
- To evaluate the effect there are 6 pilot sites around the country trialling direct payments

Universal Credit Timetable

- Main UC regulations still to be published.
- April 2013 Pathfinder area used to test UC.
- October 2013 and April 2014 New Claims and Change of circumstances. If applying for - jobseekers allowance, employment support allowance, housing benefit, working tax credit or child tax credit.
- April 2014 You may be moved onto UC if it is considered that you
 will benefit from this e.g. if you are on working tax credit and work
 a small number of hours a week but could work more hours with
 support from UC.
- The end of 2015 the end of 2017 If you have not been moved onto UC already you will be moved during this time.

Position in Leicester

• Approximately:

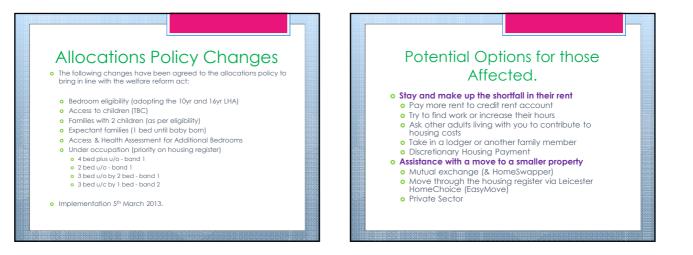
- 68% of LCC tenants in receipt of benefits
- 39% of LCC tenants in receipt of full HB
- 9478 LCC tenants will be affected in some way.
- 2718 LCC tenants will have less of both council tax benefit and HB
- 7482 RSL tenants in receipt of benefits
- 6422 RSL tenants in receipt of full HB

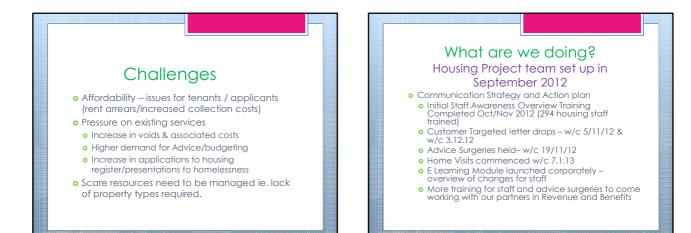




1.7		, `	1.0	、 、	1.1	1.1	
d Tax	- VV	'ar	at	sre	ak	dov	vn
		a as at					
	(D'GI	aasai	50p1 20				
WARDS	1	2	3	4	5	Grand Total	
Abbey	187	37				224	
Aylestone	43	10				53	
Beaumont Leys	150	45	1	1		197	
Belgrave	10	3				13	
Braunstone Park & Rowley Fields	244	128				376	
Coste	9	3				12	
Chamwood	119	53	1			173	
Coleman	67	13				80	
Evington	17	11	2			30	
Evres Monsell	188	42				230	
Fosse	15	4				19	
Freemen	180	71	1	1	1	254	
Humberstone & Hamilton	83	13				96	
Knighton	1	1				2	
Latimer	24	6				30	
New Parks	352	112	4			468	
Rushey Mead	7	3				10	
Spinney Hills	1.49	18	1			168	
Stoneygate	22	7				29	
Thurncourt	64	18				82	
Westcoles	16	1				17	
Western Park	3	1				4	
Grand Total	1950	600	14	2	1	2567	

Comparis	on of those L	CC Under		
Occupied	V those Ov	ercrowded		
No. Rooms Excess	& Under Occupying (Jan 2013)	Overcrowded (October 2012		
Bedroom Shortfall	Data)	Data)		
1	2124	2046		
	654	700		
	20	163		
	4	66		
	1	8		
	•	1		
	2803	2984		





What are we doing?

- Data collection and Mapping Completed
 Work with our partners ie. RSLs.
- Work with our partners ie. RSLS.
 Work with financial institutions such as credit unions development of Credit Union Budgeting Accounts (CUBAs)
 Identify policies and procedures that need reviewing.
 Allocations Policy
 Property re-classification
 Rent Arrears
 Recharge Policy application
 Mutual Exchanges
 EasyMove
 RSLs carrying out their own impact analysis and customer contact.

HELP!	
• Welfare Rights Service 256 8211	
 Community Legal Advice Centre 242 7620 	
 Revenues & Benefits 252 7006 	
 Income Mgt. Team 252 7007 	
 Mosaic (disabled people) 231 8720 	
 SAFFA (ex-Forces & Families) 261 6590 	
 Age UK (over 50's) 299 2233 	
 Highfields Community Centre 253 1053 	
 Community Advice & Law Service 242 1120 	
 Race Equality Centre (Refugees/Asylum) 299 9807 	
 Shelter Housing Aid & Research 254 6064 	
 Housing Options 252 7008 	



- This is a Government change of policy which is now law.
- Act now do not ignore what this may mean to you.
- Talk to your landlord.

Questions and Answers

Thank You