



Universal Credit

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What is it?

- A new benefit that replaces JSA, Income Support, Child Tax Credits, Housing Benefits and Employment Support Allowance
- Can only be claimed online
- Will be paid only to the claimants, once per calendar month
- Only paid into their bank account
- No backdates – unless very exceptional circumstances
- Some Alternative Payment Arrangements for vulnerable people

Who does it affect?

- Working Age claimants – usually under 63 years old (below Pension Credit age)
- DOES NOT affect pensioners, unless youngest of a couple is of Working Age
- Rolling out to new claimants who are singles without children now, then to everyone by 2018

What impact will it have?

- Tenants will receive all their housing costs themselves.
- They will then have to pay ALL OF THEIR RENT and other bills from the payment they receive.
- Anyone who does not pay their rent will be at risk of eviction.
- Personal Budgeting Support is available through LCC Universal Support website – www.leicester.gov.uk/universalscredit

What else is happening?

- **Benefit Income Cap** – going down from £500 to £384.62 per week (£20K per year) for families, from £350 to £269.23 p.wk (£14K per year) for singles.
- **Freeze** on all “working age benefits until 2020, except protected areas for disability.
- **Switch from DLA to PIP** for all existing claimants under 65 will be contacted.
- **HB** Backdating limited to one month (currently 6 months).
- **CTC, HB & UC** – rates restricted to 2 children per household, for children born after April 2017.

Housing & Planning Bill

- **Pay to Stay** – higher rents for higher earners
- **Flexible Tenancies** – 2 to 5 year tenancies
- **No HB for anyone under 21** years old
- **HB restricted to LHA rates** – affects single people under 35.

Where can I get help?

- Council tenants - can contact IMT on 0116 4541007.
- Welfare Rights (LCC) - 0116 4545570
- CAB Leicestershire - 0844 4171025 or 0300 330102 from a mobile
- CALS - 0116 242 1120
- Revenues & Benefits (LCC) - 0116 4541006
- Age UK - 0116 2992278