

# **Welfare Reform and Universal Credit Derbyshire Partnership Forum**

Allison Westray-Chapman  
Joint Assistant Director Corporate  
Resources



# Welfare Reform

**01/04/2011**

- **Local Housing Allowance (LHA) – Reduction in amounts, national cap limits, maximum 4 bedroom, removal of excess payments**

**01/01/2012**

- **Local housing allowance (shared room rate) – extended to single applicant under 35 expected to live in shared accommodation**

**01/04/2012**

- **Working tax credit (WTC) - an increase in the number of hours someone must work to qualify from 16 to 24hours (single people with no children or couples)**

# Welfare Reform

01/10/2012

- **Legal aid reforms – no longer covering private family cases (unless domestic violence reported to the police), clinical negligence, consumer and general contract, Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority applications, specified debt, education, employment, housing and immigration matters, welfare benefits**

01/04/2013

- **Council tax benefit CTB – now a local scheme**
- **Housing benefit (HB) – size criteria assessments to be introduced for working age claimants; benefit reduction of 14% for 1 bedroom over occupation and 25% for 2 bedroom over occupation**
- **All benefits (housing benefit, universal credit, job seeker's allowance, employment allowance)- total amount of benefits paid to workless households capped at £500 per week for lone parents and couples and £350 for single adults**
- **Disability Living Allowance - Personal Independence Payments to replace DLA; beneficiaries aged 16-64 to be reassessed for eligibility**
- **Social Fund – crisis loans abolished; new community care grants**

# Welfare Reform

01/10/2013

- Universal Credit/ impact on housing benefit- all new claims move UC via HMRC real time computer system to be accessed on line via DWP, paid monthly in arrears; no automatic safeguarding in place

01/01/2016

- Universal credit migration of existing HB claims

01/04/2016

- State pension age- increases for women to 65 by 2018, for both men and women to 66 by 2020 and further increase to 68 planned

31/12/2017

- Universal credit- replaces means tested benefits for all recipients

# BDC Contact Centres Impact

Contacts	Face to Face	Payments
March 2012	6003	8096
March 2013	6639	7074
<b>Increase</b>	<b>636</b>	
April 2012	5864	10212
April 2013	7360	11657
<b>Increase</b>	<b>1496</b>	<b>1445</b>
May 2012	6352	11310
May 2013	6638	12241
<b>Increase</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>931</b>

# Bolsover Reminders and Summonses

2012/2103			
	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
REM1	2462	618	769
REM2	22	349	234
REM3	316	119	159
FINAL REM	27	27	142
	2827	1113	1304
<b>SUMMONSES</b>	<b>1068</b>		<b>443</b>
2013/2014			
	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
REM1	4297	1011	850
REM2	2	655	523
REM3	67	329	210
FINAL REM	26	45	235
	4392	2040	1818
<b>INCREASE IN FR</b>	<b>1565</b>	<b>927</b>	<b>514</b>
<b>SUMMONSES</b>	<b>1722</b>		
<b>INCREASE IN SUMM</b>	<b>654</b>		

# NEDDC Reminders and Summonses

## Reminders Issued

- May 2012 3257
- June 2012 1165
- **4422**
- May 2013 3223
- June 2013 2387
- **5610** **Increase of 1188**

## Summonses Issued

- June 2012 1113
- June 2013 1622 **Increase of 509**

# Discretionary Housing Payment's

DHP allocation :

- BDC - £92,187 NEDDC - £82,603

BDC:

- DHP data as at 14.6.13
- 55 applications approved
- 211 Applications received
- Value of these awards = £16,164

NEDDC:

- 1/2/12 – 31/5/12 14 Applications Received
- 1/2/13 – 31/5/13 181 Applications Received
- 84 applications approved
- Value of the awards £14,746.30



# Rykneild Homes Impact

1.	Under Occupation (affected by Charges Direct Match to Voids ad Signed Up)	6 cases	
2.	Tenants affected by Under Occupation Charges requesting direct match to smaller accommodation	28 cases	Of Which requesting specific areas/property types and dependent upon turnover and facilities within to meet individual need:
3.	Matched to properties awaiting return of keys form voids	8	
4.	Tenants who have expressed interest in moving due to Under Occupation with historic arrears – prior to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2013 of which teams working with to encourage payments methods	28	Arrears Amounts range from £141 to £1,276
5.	Cases offered direct matches and refused offers made	11	
6.	Tenants affected by Under Occupation Charge	1068	Of which 178 have not paid under occupation charge at end of May 2013 (16.5%)

# Universal Credit - Local Support Services Framework

In February 2013 draft published ,based on

- partnership activity
- core agencies DWP and local authorities
- the third sector involvement
- Local partnership arrangements set in the context of a national partnership agreement
- Funding provided to DWP
- Holistic approach supporting people into work addressing the full range of health and social and financial needs
- Opportunity to design local service provision

# LSSF – potential work streams

- Multi-agency partnership working essential
- Utilising existing partnerships wherever possible
- Making sure themes are hooked up
  
- Employment Support – skills, training, job search
- Debt - financial inclusion, budgeting, advice
- Digital – access, support, training, availability
- Wellbeing - DHP's, Social Fund, Health Troubled Families

# Universal Credit – the timescales

- Phase 1 April 2013 – pathfinders – only one commenced
- Phase 2 October 2013 - March 2014 – extended coverage of UC roll out across GB (intended to provide a basis for DWP and LA's to start to plan services, resource provision and workforce requirements)
- Phase 3 April 2014 – 2017 – national implementation
- LSSF published autumn 2013
- National pilots requesting extensions until March 2014
  
- Rollout realistic 2014 ?

# Activity To Date

- Personal Budget Coach Training
- Advice Agency Liaison meetings
- Continuing to deliver community /agency briefings
- Taking CU payments through contact centres
- Anti-loan shark publicity
- Adoption of the LGA Collection of Council Tax Arrears best practice guide
- Conflict Resolution and Negotiation training
- Enhancing referral services
- SCR research impact of welfare reform on housing
- Mental ill health awareness training
- Mental ill health champions