

The **Potteries Gold** Post

WILL YOUR NEXT CLAIM BE FOR UNIVERSAL CREDIT?

CHANGES OF CIRCUMSTANCES MEAN A MOVE TO UC!

On 13th June 2018, the **Universal Credit Full Service** starts in **Stoke-on-Trent**. Universal Credit is a means-tested benefit to replace Income Support, Income-based JSA, Income-related ESA, Tax Credits and Housing Benefit for working age people. The DWP call these **legacy benefits**.

If you already get legacy benefits, you do not have to change over to Universal Credit on 13th June. However, from that date, all **new claims** which would have been for legacy benefits will be for UC instead.

LOOKING FOR WORK



Ray is made redundant on **8th June**. If he contacts the Jobcentre on **Monday** or **Tuesday** of the next week, he can claim **income-based Jobseeker's Allowance**. If he has to pay rent, he will claim **Housing Benefit** from the Council too.

If he waits until **Wednesday 13th or later**, he will have to claim **Universal Credit**. This will include a housing element for his rent.

Ray's Universal Credit will be about **the same money** as he would get for JSA and Housing Benefit and he will have to **sign on** and be available for and **actively seeking work**. Instead of getting fortnightly payments of JSA, Ray will get one payment every **calendar month** which will include his rent.

Whether he claims JSA or UC, Ray will have to claim **Council Tax Support** separately, from the **City Council**.

LONE PARENTS WHOSE YOUNGEST CHILD IS NOW FIVE



Jenny is a lone parent. She claims **Income Support**, **Housing Benefit**, **Council Tax Support** and **Child Tax Credit**.

Usually, when a lone parent's youngest child is **five**, the parent has to make a new claim for **Jobseeker's Allowance** rather than Income Support.

Because Jenny's daughter Poppy will be five years old after 13th June, Jenny will have to claim **Universal Credit** instead.

Jenny's Universal Credit won't just replace her Income Support/JSA. It will also replace her Child Tax Credit and Housing Benefit. Like Ray, she will get **one large payment** once every **calendar month**. If she is over 25, she will get about the same as before, but **under 25s** will be **worse off**.

NEW PARENTS



Ahmed and Saira's first child, Mohammed, is born on 13th June 2018. Because Ahmed has been unwell, they have been getting **income-related ESA** and **Housing Benefit**. They expected to make a claim for **Child Tax Credit** for little Mo but instead, will have to claim **Universal Credit**. This will be worth roughly the same as the legacy benefits, but replaces their ESA and Housing Benefit, give them an allowance for their baby, and will come as one calendar monthly payment.

We will look at some other situations where people will **naturally migrate** to Universal Credit from legacy benefits in our next newsletter. See our Facebook page for details of workshops where you can find out more!

Potteries Gold is a **Citizens Advice Staffordshire North & Stoke-on-Trent** project to help people in Stoke-on-Trent cope with changes to the benefit system

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