

The **Potteries Gold** Post

MORE CHANGES TO UC!

BUT THIS TIME IT'S GOOD NEWS...

On 13th June 2018, the **Universal Credit Full Service** starts in most of **Stoke-on-Trent**. Universal Credit is replacing the **legacy benefits** - Income Support, Income-based JSA, Income-related ESA, Tax Credits and Housing Benefit for working age people.

If you already get legacy benefits, you do not have to change over to Universal Credit on 13th June but from that date, **new claims** will be for UC instead but a **change in circumstances** can mean a **change of benefit**. We were concerned that disabled people could lose money moving to UC, but **the Government** have **announced some changes** that will help avoid this.

WHAT HAS CHANGED?

The timetable for **managed migration** – when the DWP swap you from your old benefit to Universal Credit without a change in your circumstances - has been extended by 1 year. It will now run from **July 2019** to **March 2023**.

Esther McVey, **Secretary of State for Work and Pensions**, says that the government also intends to make the following changes:

*'In order to support the transition for those individuals who live alone with substantial care needs and receive the **Severe Disability Premium**, we are changing the system so that these claimants will not be moved to Universal Credit until they qualify for **transitional protection**.'*



In addition, we will provide both an on-going payment to claimants who have already lost this Premium as a consequence of moving to Universal Credit and an additional payment to cover the period since they moved.'



This may help people who we thought could lose lots of money if they were found 'fit for work', even if they appealed and later won their case.



Terry was getting ESA until he was found 'fit for work'. He wants to challenge this decision. His ESA included a **severe disability premium** (SDP) of £64.30 per week because he got **PIP for daily living, lives alone** and **doesn't have a carer** getting Carer's Allowance.

If he claims Universal Credit while the decision is looked at again, he will lose his SDP as **UC doesn't include an SDP**. This announcement suggests he could **claim JSA instead** and **keep his SDP**.

The Secretary of State announced some other changes...

*'Second, we will increase the incentives for parents to take **short-term or temporary work** and **increase their earnings**, by ensuring that the award of, or increase in, support for **childcare costs** will **not erode transitional protection**.
Third, we propose to **re-award claimants' transitional protection** that has ceased owing to short-term increases in earnings within an assessment period, **if they make a new claim to UC within three months** of when they received the additional payment.*

*'Finally, individuals with capital in excess of £16,000 are not eligible for Universal Credit. However, **for Tax Credit claimants** in this situation, we will now **disregard any capital in excess of £16,000 for 12 months** from the point at which they are moved to Universal Credit. Normal benefit rules apply after this time in order to strike the right balance between keeping incentives for saving and asking people to support themselves.'*

Things keep changing, but to stay **up-to-date** on Universal Credit news, follow us on **Facebook** or **Twitter**!

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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