

## Child Tax Credit (CTC)

You may be entitled to Child Tax Credit if you are responsible for a child under 16, or a qualifying young person under 20 who is still in full-time non-advanced education and you have a low income. You do not need to be working to claim CTC.

## Working Tax Credit (WTC)

You may be entitled to Working Tax Credit if you have a low income and are working a minimum number of hours a week. If you are a lone parent, or are over 60 or have a disability you will qualify for WTC if you are working for at least 16 hours a week. If you do not have children or a disability, you will need to be over 25 and working 30 hours a week to qualify for WTC.

## Universal Credit (UC)

If you make a new claim after 13th June 2018 and you **either** live in Stoke-on-Trent **or** you live in Staffordshire Moorlands and sign on at Hanley or Longton Jobcentre, you will have to claim UC instead of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based JSA
- Income-related ESA
- Child Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit
- Housing Benefit

If you have been a victim of domestic violence you will be not be required to carry out any work related requirements, such as looking for work, for the first 13 weeks. →

←The conditions are the same as those for JSA. This break can be extended to 26 weeks if you have a child under 16.

If you have a child under the age of 16 who is under distress due to experiencing or witnessing domestic violence and abuse you can also have a break of up to 1 month in every 6 months, during the 2 years following the incident.

If you have temporarily left your home you can receive help towards your housing costs as part of your UC, for both your former home and your temporary home for up to 12 months. If you have 2 or more children and have another child born on or after 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017 you may also be exempt from the rules which prevent you receiving additional benefit for that child, if the child was conceived as the result of rape or at a time when your partner was abusive.

**National Domestic Violence Helpline**

**0808 2000 247**

**Staffordshire Victim Gateway**

**for all victims of crime: 0330 0881 339**

For more information go to [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk) or contact our Citizens Advice Helpline: 03444 111 444

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  
[www.snsca.org.uk/about-us/potteries-gold](http://www.snsca.org.uk/about-us/potteries-gold)  
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# Potteries Gold

## Benefits for ...

# Victims of Domestic Violence & Abuse



## What is domestic violence and abuse?

Domestic violence and abuse is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.

The abuse can be:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- emotional



Many benefits have special rules to make it easier for victims of domestic violence and abuse to claim.

### Income Support

If you have a child under the age of 5 or are the carer of a disabled person you may be entitled to Income Support, if you have no income or are working under 16 hours a week and have a low income.

### Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)

If you are unemployed and do not have children under 5 and are fit for work, you may be entitled to JSA.

Normally jobseekers are required to be

available for work and actively seeking work, however if you are a victim of domestic violence and abuse, you can have a break from job seeking and work preparation requirements for up to 13 weeks.

The break is split into 2 parts:

- an initial 4 week period starting on the day you tell Jobcentre Plus that you have been threatened with or subject to domestic violence and abuse
- an extension from 4 to 13 weeks if you provide evidence during the initial 4 week period

You must tell Jobcentre Plus about the domestic violence and abuse in an interview with a work coach, either face-to-face or by telephone. The initial 4 week break starts on this date.

To be eligible for this initial 4 week break, all of the following must apply:

- you are claiming JSA or are part of the ESA work-related activity group (WRAG)
- the incident of domestic violence or abuse occurred in the last 26 weeks
- the incident must meet the definition of domestic violence
- you must not be living at the same address as the abuser
- you have not had another break due to domestic violence or abuse within the last 12 months

## Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)

If you are not fit for work and have a medical certificate from your doctor you may be entitled to claim ESA.

If you are placed in the work-related activity group for ESA you may also have a break from work preparation requirements of up to 13 weeks. The rules for this break are the same as the rules for JSA above.

### Housing Benefit

If you are moving into a rented property you may be able to claim Housing Benefit if you have a low income or are receiving income-replacement benefits.

If you are intending to return to your former home which is also rented, you may be able to receive Housing Benefit for both your former home and your temporary home for up to 52 weeks. This is a special rule for people who are temporarily absent from their home because of fear of domestic violence or abuse.

If you don't intend to return to your former home, you can receive Housing Benefit for up to 4 weeks if you have an unavoidable rental liability on the former home.

