

## **APRIL 2017 BENEFIT AND TAX CREDIT CHANGES**

### **Two-child limit**

You cannot get a child element in your child tax credit (CTC) for a third or subsequent child born on or after 6 April 2017. There are some exceptions. You can get a disabled child element for a third or subsequent child born on or after 6 April 2017. If you already get CTC for three or more children this can continue, or if a child joins your household who was born before 6 April 2017 you can get a child element for them.

Anyone with three or more children who tries to claim universal credit (UC) is to be directed to CTC from 6 April to claim CTC and other legacy benefits instead. This is because UC does not usually include an amount for a third or subsequent child regardless of when they were born.

### **Parent of young child changes**

Previously a lone parent with a child under 5 (or the main carer in a couple) did not have full work search requirements in universal credit (UC). From 3 April 2017 you have full work search requirements when your youngest child turns 3, although you can limit the number of hours of work search or work that you can do to the number the DWP think is compatible with your caring responsibilities.

If you get UC, you are required to start attending work-focused interviews when your youngest child turns 1, and may be required to undertake work preparation when your youngest child turns 2.

### **National Living Wage Increase**

The National Living Wage for those aged 25 and over went up from £7.20 per hour to £7.50 per hour.

### **Statutory Sick Pay**

Statutory sick pay went up to £89.35 per week.

### **Council Tax Reduction bands**

In Scotland, there is a new form of Council Tax Reduction to help people on low incomes in properties in bands E-H.

### **Lifetime ISA's**

Any adult under 40 can now open a new Lifetime ISA.

If you have any questions please contact our Tenant Adviser

<http://www.lsha.co.uk/tenants/tenant-adviser>