

It's here! New benefit!

Universal Credit is the new benefit for **working age people** which replaces 6 of your current benefits including Jobseekers Allowance, Employment & Support Allowance, Income Support, Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit and Housing Benefit. It does not replace Council Tax Benefit so you still need to claim this from your local council!

You will be told if you need to claim Universal Credit. **Let us know you have claimed** so we can help & support you! The Jobcentre will need a recent tenancy agreement or letter from us, a rent statement & details of any service charges. Contact us as soon as you have started your claim so we can give you this information and it does not delay your money!

Facts about UC –

1. **Universal Credit** includes amounts for you, a partner, children & housing costs eg rent & service charges. You might still get other benefits like Child Benefit, DLA & PIP.
2. You need to claim Universal Credit online. You can use our computers in the resource centre on a Monday morning or visit your local Jobcentre.
3. Universal Credit is paid **monthly** in arrears. You will need to pay your rent yourself out of your Universal Credit & your Housing Benefit will stop. Please make sure you tell Universal Credit (DWP) about your rent & any service charges.
4. Your rent will go into arrears whilst you wait for your UC payment. You can pay extra now into your rent account to help prevent arrears. A small amount every week will help.
5. A **bank account** is the easiest way to manage Universal Credit. You can pay your main bills, including your rent, by **Direct Debit** on your UC pay day each month.
6. It can take **6-7 weeks** before you get your 1st payment and your UC may change every month if your other income varies so it's important to plan ahead and budget. For help with working out a budget please contact Worthing Homes or the JobCentre.
7. UC is designed so you are better off working. It doesn't automatically stop when you start work.
8. You will need to tell Universal Credit (DWP) when your rent changes every April & if anything changes with your income.

For more advice talk to the Jobcentre or contact us –

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or visit our website for more information www.worthing-homes.org.uk