

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!

If you need to claim any of the benefits listed above you will have to claim Universal Credit instead! If you already get any of the above benefits you will eventually be moved onto Universal Credit! **Let us know you have claimed** so we can help & support you! The Jobcentre will need a rent statement & details of any service charges.

Facts about UC –

1. **Universal Credit** (UC) 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 visit your local Jobcentre, One Stop Junction or library.
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 usually takes **5 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 Citizens Advice or Worthing Homes.
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 when your rent changes every April & if anything changes with your income or circumstances.

For more advice talk to your work coach, Citizens Advice (they are in the Jobcentre) or contact us

01903 703110 email: financialinclusion@worthing-homes.org.uk
or visit our website for more help & information www.worthing-homes.org.uk