

Benefits



**Hertfordshire County Council
Money Advice Unit**



Reasons people miss out

- lack of information
- misconceptions about benefit rules
- difficulty with the claims process (forms)
- claiming but being wrongly refused benefits



Personal independence payment (PIP)

- PIP is replacing disability living allowance (DLA) for adults of working age
- not means tested
- Two parts: daily living component
mobility component
- assessed using a point-scoring system

PIP replacing DLA

- DLA claimants are being told to apply to transfer to PIP (except children under 16 and those born before 8 April 1948)
- Claimants must apply when told to do so, or their DLA will stop
- Some people are better off on PIP; others worse off
- Transfer process to be completed in 2018

PIP: Daily living activities

1. preparing food
2. eating and drinking
3. managing treatment
4. washing and bathing
5. managing toilet needs or incontinence
6. dressing and undressing
7. communicating
8. reading
9. mixing with other people
10. budgeting



PIP: Mobility activities

1. planning and following journeys
2. moving around



Applying for PIP

1. Phonecall
2. PIP2 form
3. Assessment by health professional (usually face-to-face)
4. DWP makes a decision
5. You can challenge the decision if you disagree with it (seek advice)



Employment and support allowance (ESA)

- can be paid from age 16, but if a young person claims ESA their parents can no longer claim child benefit or child tax credit for them
- work related activity group vs support group
- check amount / premiums
- claimants can do 'permitted work' while claiming ESA



Universal credit

Universal credit is replacing



- income support
- income-related employment and support allowance
- income-based jobseeker's allowance
- housing benefit
- tax credits

Universal credit in Hertfordshire

At present: UC is only available for single jobseekers who meet the 'gateway conditions'

Starting on 1 Nov 2017: UC will be rolled out across Hertfordshire. It will begin to affect people with disabilities, carers, and families with children.

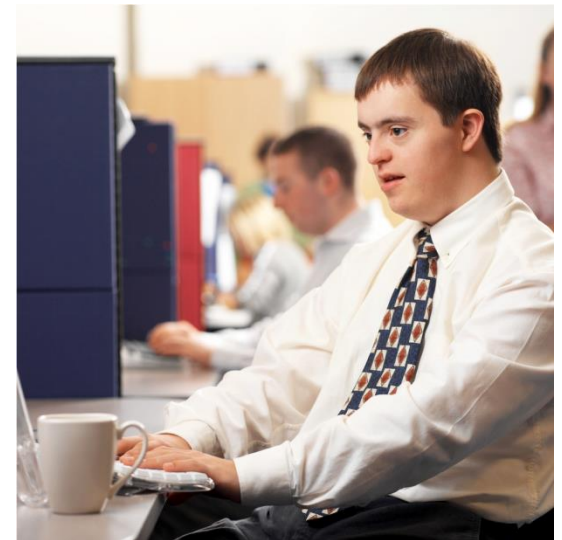
From 6 Dec 2017: Hatfield will be a UC 'full service' area.

- it will no longer be possible to start a new claim for the 'legacy benefits'
- claimants getting the 'legacy benefits' may need to transfer to UC if they have a change of circumstances

2019 to 2022: Migration of remaining claimants to UC

Universal credit

- supposed to make it easier for people to move into work
- standard allowance and additional ‘elements’ depending on circumstances
- apply online
- claimant commitment
- paid monthly in arrears (alternative payment arrangements)



Carers allowance

- For carers looking after someone who gets PIP daily living component, DLA highest or middle rate care component, or attendance allowance, for at least 35 hours a week.
- Carer must not earn more than £116 per week
- Carers allowance **overlaps** with some other benefits e.g. state retirement pension
- Applying for carers allowance may lead to increases in other benefits



Other benefits and concessions

- council tax discounts (not means tested):
disability reduction, severe mental impairment discount, carer discount
- income tax marriage allowance
- discretionary housing payments
- pension credit



Further information



www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/benefits

www.entitledto.co.uk

www.turn2us.org.uk

Any questions?

