

Important information to all claimants

The Government has abolished 'benefit periods' for all claimants.

The Council will continue to review the benefit that you have been granted under new rules set by the Government. The reviews will be targeted at claims for specific reasons such as:

- the anniversary of the Rent Officer's determination on rent used in calculating Housing Benefit;
- significant dates in the ages of a household;
- annual increases in pension credits, tax credits etc.

The Council will contact claimants, in writing, as and when a review is required.

Changes of circumstances

A claimant is still responsible for notifying the Council of changes in circumstances and should not wait for the Council to write to them. All claimants **must still report any changes** of circumstances for example:

- ◆ You move to a different address.
- ◆ Salary or wages increase.
- ◆ Someone comes to live with you and they are not included in your present claim.
- ◆ Your capital increases to £16,000 or above and you do not receive Guaranteed Pension Credit.
- ◆ Changes to Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit
- ◆ Changes to Child Benefit
- ◆ The rent changes.
- ◆ People who live with you - If there are changes in their income or their capital.
- ◆ People either leave or join your household.
- ◆ You move out of your home for more than 13 weeks.

A change of circumstances form is on the reverse of this notice. It is for your use **if** and when **your circumstances do change**.

Please take notice of the following important information

Failure to disclose information could result in benefit being lost.

Overpayment of benefit will be collected.

Any changes of circumstances in Section 2 should be supported with the original documents.

If you give false statements, information or documents when you make a claim (or in support of) of a claim, or if you fail to tell us about any relevant change of circumstances and you continue to receive benefit we will prosecute you.

