



## Benefits Newsletter June 2018

### 1. Universal Credit

#### Universal Credit roll-out on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2018

A [commencement order](#) for UC was published on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018 which give details of the postcode areas where UC has been introduced on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2018 for new claimants and existing claimant who have a change of circumstances Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Moorlands. There are some changes from the May newsletter; ST6 7 is part of the Stoke-on-Trent roll-out not the Newcastle roll-out in December.

<b>UC is being rolled out in the following postcode areas from 13<sup>th</sup> June 2018</b>	
ST1	Hanley, Birches Head, Cobridge, Etruria, Shelton
ST2,	Bentilee, Abbey Hulton, Bucknall
ST3,	Longton, Dresden, Blurton, Trentham, Meir, Weston Coyney
ST4 1 to ST4 3	Stoke Town Centre, Fenton, Shelton,
ST6 1 to ST6 4	Burslem, Smallthorne, Ford Green, Sneyd Green, Middleport, Longport, Westport, Brownhills,
ST6 6 to ST6 9	Tunstall (but not the whole of Tunstall) Packmoor, Chell, Fegg Hayes, Haywood, Mill Hill, Norton, Brown Edge, Scotia
ST9	Werrington, Endon
ST10	Cheadle, Alton, Tean
ST11	Blythe Bridge
ST12	Barlaston
ST13	Leek

<b>UC is not being rolled out in the following areas until 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018</b>	
ST4 4	Campbell Rd, and Boothern Rd Stoke
ST4 5	London Rd Stoke, Oak Hill, Penkhull,
ST4 6	Trent Vale, Basford, Hanford
ST4 7	Hartshill, Shelton New Rd, Garner St
ST5	Newcastle Borough
ST6 5	Tunstall, Sandyford and Goldenhill
ST7	Kidsgrove, Talke, Talke Pits, Butt Lane, Newchapel, Packmoor
ST8	Biddulph (12 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2018)

## **Judicial Review on Migration to Full Service UC**

The High Court has ruled that the Government has discriminated against two men with severe disabilities who were required to migrate to UC after moving into full service areas, resulting in the loss of their severe and enhanced disability premiums.

See [Leigh and Day Solicitors](#) TP and AR, R (On the Application Of) v Secretary of State for Work and Pensions [2018] EWHC 1474 [Case No: CO/5828/2017 and CO/552/2018](#)

## **Transitional Protection for Managed Migration**

The Work and Pensions Secretary Esther McVey has announced in a [written statement](#) four new measures to transitionally protect claimants who lose out when they migrate to universal credit.

- Claimants receiving the Severe Disability Premium will not be moved to UC until they qualify for transitional protection and will provide an additional payment of UC to those who have already moved and lost their SDP backdated to the date of claim. [Statistics](#) from the DWP show that 4,000 claimants receiving ESA have migrated to UC and lost their SDP.
- Claimants receiving transitional protection will not have this amount reduced if they are awarded or have an increase in the support for childcare costs.
- Claimants receiving TP who have a short term increase in their income will be able have their TP reinstated if they make a new claim to UC within three months of when they received the additional payment.
- Tax Credit claimants moving to UC with capital of more than £16,000 will have this excess capital disregarded for 12 months

## **National Audit Office Report**

The NAO has published a report [‘Rolling out universal credit’](#), which is highly critical of the roll-out of Universal Credit.

The DWP *‘cannot measure whether Universal Credit will lead to its economic aim of getting an additional 200,000 people into work. Universal Credit may also cost more to administer than the previous system of benefits it replaces.’*

## **Universal Credit Full Service Survey**

The DWP has published a report of a survey carried out with a group of claimants using the full service Universal Credit. The [Universal Credit Full Service Survey](#) has found:

98% of claimants claimed online but:

- only 54% of these were able to register their claim unassisted
- only 21% were able to complete it online but with help
- 20% needed help from a Jobcentre plus advisor
- 30% of those who registered a claim online found this difficult and the process of verifying identity online particularly difficult
- 43% of claimants said they needed more support registering their claim for UC
- 31% of claimants said they said they needed more help with ongoing support using their UC account
- 3 months into the claim
  - 53% were keeping up with their bills and credit commitments
  - 44% were falling behind or experiencing financial difficulties

**NB** 66% of those who were surveyed in the first wave were jobseekers

## **The Money Advice Service and Potteries Moneywise Budgeting Advice**

The MAS has produced a leaflet ‘Managing your money and paying your rent’ and [webpage](#) to help tenants who are moving over to UC who need advice about opening a basic bank account and to learn to budget which are free to order.

Our Potteries Moneywise Team is also able to give advice about budgeting, especially for people moving onto UC – to contact them see [www.potteriesmoneywise.org.uk](http://www.potteriesmoneywise.org.uk)

### **Women's Budget Group**

The Women's Budget Group has published a report highlighting concerns about potential financial abuse of women who are receiving UC payments into a bank account in their partner's name '[Universal Credit and Financial Abuse: Exploring the links](#)'.

## **2. Personal Independence Payment**

### **Daily Living Component Activity 3 – Managing therapy or monitoring a Health condition**

On 21<sup>st</sup> May Esther McVey Secretary of State for Works and Pensions has announced they would be withdrawing the appeal to the Upper Tribunal [CPIP/721/2016](#) on two cases (represented by [Garden Court North Chambers](#)) which involve the interpretation of the meaning of therapy in activity 3 of the PIP daily living component. The legislation was changed on [16<sup>th</sup> March 2017](#) to state that meaning of therapy does not include the administration of medication or application of creams or monitoring a health condition, which means that since March 2017 claimants who only need this level of assistance only score 1 point on this activity. The two cases which were the DWP appealed against related to decisions which were taken before the new legislation came into force, one of which involved a woman who has diabetes and needs to be constantly monitored and receive injections administered by her partner who received no points for this activity. The DWP have now accepted that their approach prior to March 2017 was wrong and have promised to review all the cases affected by this error.

### **10 year PIP awards for people with severe or progressive conditions**

Sarah Newton Minister of Disabled People Health and Work has [announced](#) that new guidance will be coming into effect this summer which will mean people who are awarded the highest level of support under PIP – and where their needs are expected to stay the same or increase – will receive an ongoing award of PIP with a light touch review every 10 years.

### **Online PIP Appeals**

HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) has launched a pilot for submitting [personal independence payment \(PIP\) appeals online](#).

The service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and will be available to people who live in the Midlands or south-east England. Once the appeal is submitted, it is registered on the case management system by the next working day and transmitted electronically the same day to the DWP.

## **3. Employment and Support Allowance**

### **[Appeal Statistics](#)**

- In April 2018, 7,500 MR decisions (60%) were made on disputes about Fit for Work assessment outcomes. Only 11% of FFW disputes resulted in a revision in April.
- 61% of ESA appeal cases were successful at the initial First Tier Tribunal in the quarter Jan – March 2017 (down from 62% in the previous 3 quarters)