

CIPFA Benefits and Revenues Service

CBRS Summer Benefits Update

Webinar 1 – housing benefit and council tax support update

This is the first of two half day webinars which will be delivered by webinar on:

Tuesday 10 September 2024 from 1.45pm

Summary of the event

Following the result of the general election and all-change in the House of Commons, these two half day webinars provide an update of the position relating to local authority administered benefits services, universal credit and the provision of other government and local authority support as well as the impact of universal credit on local services.

This first webinar concentrates on housing benefit with an update on the current position of benefits services including the latest changes and legislation and which policies will continue and what policy changes may be made.

The update includes details on the impact of the latest funding issues, new legislation, annual uprating and the effect on local housing allowances. There is also an update on discretionary housing payments spending including on welfare reforms and housing benefit only and/or council tax support which missed out on the cost of living payments.

This is followed by an update on the managed migration of claims to universal credit including the latest timescales and impact on housing benefit caseload.

Learning Outcomes

Delegates will:

- be aware of the latest issues affecting universal credit, housing benefit and council tax support
- be informed on issues relating to the continued administration of housing benefit and local council tax support claims which local authorities have retained responsibilities for
- identify how those services will need to develop and change in order to provide effective support services to benefit recipients

Who Will Benefit?

Those Local Authority staff involved in the policy development and management of benefits services, staff involved in training and decision making and other staff with an interest in the local delivery of benefit services.

Programme

13.45 – 14:00	Log-on, System check, Sound check and Welcome
14:00 – 15.15	Session 1 – where are we now and how things may change This session provides an update on issues affecting the assessment and delivery benefit services in local authorities, including; <ul style="list-style-type: none">• welfare reform proposals of the new government• announcements and changes implemented before the election – 2024/25 uprating, LHAs, local support schemes• what stays and what goes? - changes aimed at encouraging a return to work, the two child limit, sanctions, benefit cap• DHP allocations, spending and increased demand• Data protection and data sharing – proposals for change• cost of living payments and HB/CTS only claims
15.15 – 15.30	Break
15.30 – 16.30	Session 2 – migration of legacy benefit claims to universal credit This session provides the latest details and timescales for the migration of claims to universal credit; <ul style="list-style-type: none">• latest figures of claims migrated and universal credit totals• effect on migrated claims and impact on housing benefit caseload• timetable for migration of remaining legacy benefit claims• position of housing benefit only claims and pensioners• concerns over the speed of migration including migration notices and responses• transitional protection
16.30	Questions and close

The facilitator for this event will be Sheldon Wood, Lead Benefits Advisor – CIPFA Benefits and Revenues Service

CIPFA reserve the right to alter the timing or content of sessions



CIPFA Sustainability Policy

CIPFA is delivering all of our training courses, workshops and seminars in accordance with our sustainability strategy. We do not provide hardcopy course materials to delegates and these are now distributed by email in advance of the event. We are striving to reduce our carbon footprint in every way that we can, and we hope that we can count on your support.

CIPFA Benefits and Revenues Service

CBRS Summer Benefits Update 2024

Webinar 2 – universal credit and caselaw update

This second of two half day webinars will be delivered by webinar on:
Thursday 12 September 2024 from 1.45pm

Summary of the event

This second webinar provides an update on the delivery and changes to universal credit concentrating on how this impacts on local authority benefit services, followed by an update on the delivery and funding of local council tax support schemes and recent relevant caselaw.

The webinar starts with an analysis of the latest statistics on universal credit caseload followed by an update on issues affecting the assessment and delivery of universal credit and how this may impact on local authorities.

This is followed by an update on issues affecting the assessment of council tax support claims including amended regulations and funding arrangements and a review of the different types of local council tax support now operating in different local authorities.

Finally there is a round up of recent caselaw of the courts and tribunals affecting benefit services.

Learning Outcomes

Delegates will

- be aware of the latest issues affecting universal credit and how these impact on the administration of housing benefit and council tax support
- be informed some recent caselaw which affect the administration of housing benefit and local council tax support claims which local authorities have retained responsibilities for
- identify how those services will need to develop and change in order to provide effective support services to benefit recipients

Who Will Benefit?

Those Local Authority staff involved in the policy development and management of benefits services, staff involved in training and decision making and other staff with an interest in the local delivery of benefit services.

Programme

13.45 – 14:00

Log-on, System check, Sound check and Welcome

14:00 – 15.15

Session 1 – universal credit claims and delivery

This session starts with a summary of the latest statistics on universal credit claims followed by an update on the delivery of universal credit including recent changes and announcements;

- latest statistics on universal credit caseload
 - update on legislation including recent regulations, sanctions, other deductions, help to claim service and work capability assessments
 - administration announcements including the 53 week problem, minimum income floor and data sharing
 - latest research into universal credit rules and processes
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15:15 – 15:30

Break

15.30 – 16.30

Session 2 – council tax support and caselaw update

This session provides an update on issues relating to the assessment and delivery of council tax support in local authorities followed by a round up of recent cases at upper tribunals and the courts;

- changes to the prescribed requirement regulations
 - changes to grant arrangements including administration grant funding
 - review of council tax support schemes in England, types of schemes and the increase in banded schemes
 - council tax support schemes in Wales
 - caselaw update
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16.30

Questions and close

The facilitator for this event will be Sheldon Wood, Lead Benefits Advisor – CIPFA Benefits and Revenues Service

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