

# Benefits Changes 2013



**Benefits are changing.**



**The government is  
making many changes.  
These may affect you.**



**This tells you about those  
changes.**

**It tells you where to find  
out more.**



## Changes from April 2013



Housing benefit cut for people in social housing with spare bedrooms.

This is called **Social Housing Under-Occupation**.  
Look at the **green** pages to find out more.



Council Tax benefit changing to **Council Tax Reduction Scheme**.

Look at the **purple** pages to find out more.



Local fund set up for people on a low income who need help with living costs in a crisis.

This is called **Local Welfare Assistance Fund**.  
Look at the **red** pages to find out more.



## Changes from June 2013



Disability Living Allowance (DLA) replaced with a new benefit called **Personal Independence Payment (PIP)**.

Look at the **orange** pages to find out more.



## Changes from September 2013



A top amount to benefits you can claim.

This is called a **Benefit Cap**.

Look at the **pink pages** to find out more.



## Changes from October 2013



A new single payment for people looking for work or on a low income.

This is called **Universal Credit**.

Look at the **yellow pages** to find out more.



# Social Housing Under Occupation

## This affects people who



are of working age



are tenants in social housing and claim Housing Benefit



have one or more empty bedrooms.

## What it means



The number of bedrooms you are allowed will be worked out on the number, age and sex of people living in the house.



A bedroom may be allowed for a carer to stay overnight.



A bedroom cannot be allowed for children who live elsewhere but stay with you.



A bedroom cannot be allowed if a couple needs separate rooms.



## What it means

You have to pay the first part of your rent without housing benefit.



If you have one empty bedroom it is 14%

If you have two or more empty bedrooms it is 25%



## What has been done

We have written to tenants this affects.

We have given information to landlords.  
They can work with you.



Council tenants have been contacted by a Housing Officer. They can go through the choices.



## What you can do

Pay the extra cost yourself.

Move to a smaller home or take in a lodger.



If you find it difficult to pay we may be able to help.  
Read the **red pages** to find out more.



## Find out more

[www.bournemouth.gov.uk/benefits](http://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/benefits)

# Council Tax Reduction Scheme



## This is for

people who need help to pay their Council Tax.



## But not

people who receive a state pension or a war disability pension or is a war widow/widower



people who receive disability benefits.



## What it means

Most people of working age pay at least 20% towards their council tax.

Council tax bills will be sent out in March.

## To apply

If you get help with Council Tax you move to the new scheme.



If not you must claim council tax reduction online at:  
**[www.bournemouth.gov.uk/benefits](http://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/benefits)**



Or phone the Benefits Section on **01202 451592** for a claim form.

# Local Welfare Assistance Fund



## This is for

people who need help with living costs for a short time. This may be because of:

- extreme money problems
- a disaster
- an emergency

or because the Department for Work and Pensions say you have a low income.



## What it means

Apply to us for help with things like:

- food for up to 14 days
- goods such as a fridge or cooker
- beds and bedding
- bills like gas, electricity or rent
- help towards a council tax bill.

We may provide items or arrange for you to buy them.

This is instead of Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans. These were given by the Department for Work and Pensions.



## To apply

Go to [www.bournemouth.gov.uk/welfare](http://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/welfare)



Phone 01202 451266

# Personal Independence Payment



Disability Living Allowance (DLA) will stop.  
There will be Personal Independence Payment (PIP) instead.



## This is for

disabled people aged between 16 and 64.



## What it means

To get PIP you need to see a doctor who works for the Department for Work and Pensions.



Some people will lose money.



The Department for Work and Pensions has written to the people who are affected.



## Find out more

[www.dwp.gov.uk/pip](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/pip)

# Benefit Cap



**This is for people who**

are of working age



receive benefits.



**But not if you are entitled to:**

Working Tax Credit,  
Disability Living Allowance  
Attendance allowance  
Personal Independence Payments,  
Employment and Support Allowance support component  
Industrial Injuries Benefit  
War Widows or War Widowers Pensions  
Armed Forces Compensation Scheme  
War Pension Scheme Payments



**What has been done**

The Department for Work and Pensions has written to the people who are affected.



**What it means**

A top amount for benefits:  
£350 per week for a single person  
£500 per week for single parents or couples.



**Find out more**

[www.gov.uk/benefit-cap](http://www.gov.uk/benefit-cap)



# Universal Credit



## What it means

People have one payment to cover their living and housing costs.



People receive their payment directly.



## This is for people who

are looking for work



are on a low income.



## You get Universal Credit instead of:

Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance

Income-related Employment and Support Allowance

Income Support

Child Tax Credits

Working Tax Credits

Housing Benefit



## Find out more

[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)



## Free Money Management Advice

### The Money Advice Service



0300 500 5000



[www.moneyadvice.org.uk](http://www.moneyadvice.org.uk)

### Bournemouth Citizens Advice Bureau



08444 111444



[www.bournemouthcab.co.uk](http://www.bournemouthcab.co.uk)

# Bournemouth Council Contacts

## Benefits



01202 451592

[www.bournemouth.gov.uk/benefits](http://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/benefits)

## Local Welfare Assistance Fund



01202 451266

[www.bournemouth.gov.uk/welfare](http://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/welfare)



## Customer Services



01202 451451



Customer Services Centre  
Town Hall, St Stephen's Road  
Bournemouth, BH2 6EB



[enquiries@bournemouth.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@bournemouth.gov.uk)



[www.bournemouth.gov.uk](http://www.bournemouth.gov.uk)