

# Universal Credit update: Folkestone & Hythe District Council

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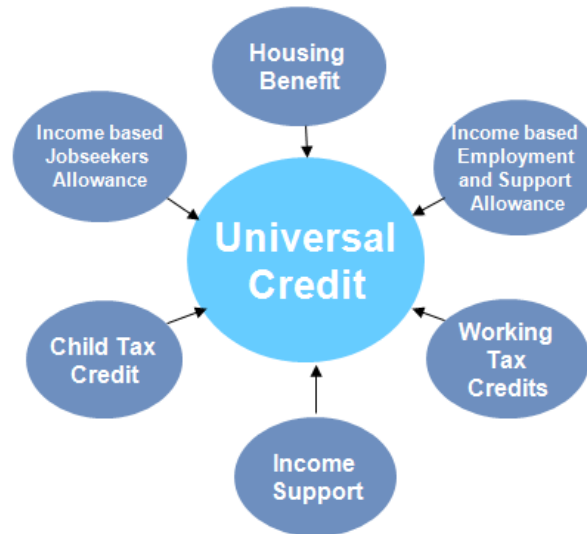
Revenues and Benefits Strategic Manager

# Introduction

- What is Universal Credit?
- Universal Credit in the Folkestone & Hythe area
- Impact in the Folkestone & Hythe area
- The future

# What is Universal Credit?

- Universal Credit is being rolled out across the United Kingdom and will replace 6 existing (legacy) benefits and merge them into one payment will be paid monthly in arrears.



- Universal Credit is for working age people only.

# Universal Credit in Folkestone & Hythe DC

- UC live service was initially introduced to Folkestone on 25 January 2016 for new claimants that would have previously applied for JobSeekers Allowance.
- UC live service ended 31 December 2017 and no new claims have been made in Folkestone since this date.
- Once a customer is in receipt of UC they remain on the benefit.

# Universal Credit Full Service



- Full service rolls out in the Folkestone JobCentre from 30 May 2018 for all new applications
- The Council cannot accept new claims for Housing Benefit from this date unless exempt from UC:
  - Temporary Accommodation
  - Specified (Supported) Accommodation
  - Households with 3 or more children
  - Pensionable age

# Resource implications

## Residents who claim benefits from the Council

- New claims for Housing Benefit will cease except for exempt cases.
- All Supported and Exempt Accommodation claims, Temporary Accommodation and 3+ child households for Housing Benefit will still be made to the Council.
- All residents will continue to apply for Council Tax Reduction from the Council.
- Universal Credit has monthly changes that need to be processed for CTR cases, this will increase significantly. No automation currently available from DWP.
- Manual processing of two-week run on payments of HB to be administered by the Council.

# Resource implications

Current caseload:

	Housing Benefit	Council Tax Reduction
Working age	5,367	4,891
Pension age	2,646	4,057
Total caseload	8,013	8.948

- New claims overall will still be received as CTR applications will be encouraged.
- Change in circumstances expected to increase with monthly UC change notifications
- Number of Folkestone JC residents in receipt of Universal Credit: 578\*

\*Figures as of February 2018

# LA support for UC

- The Council have a responsibility to offer two key services to support DWP in UC implementation
  - Assisted Digital Support (ADS)
  - Personal Budgeting Support (PBS)
- The Welfare Reform Officer to focus attention on the projected take up of the services offered on DWPs behalf.

Category	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
ADS Claimant Take – Up	19	63	52	64	<b>198</b>
PBS Claimant Take – Up	31	106	88	106	<b>331</b>

- Funding received from DWP to carry out duties



# The future

- After the rollout process has completed, DWP will then begin moving all remaining existing benefit claimants to the full Universal Credit service
- Managed migration to be completed by 2022 (latest target)
- No plans for a similar scheme for Pensioners

# Summary

- What is Universal Credit?
- Universal Credit in Folkestone & Hythe area
- Impact in Folkestone & Hythe area
- The future
- **Any questions?**
- [www.understandinguniversalcredit.gov.uk](http://www.understandinguniversalcredit.gov.uk)
- [www.youtube.com/channel/UC7Km4IXfVJB1n8SQUmkJD0Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7Km4IXfVJB1n8SQUmkJD0Q)