



UNIVERSAL CREDIT

Universal Credit is a means-tested benefit for 'working age' claimants that is being introduced across the UK to replace some existing benefits including:

- Housing Benefit
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Child Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit
- Income Support (IS)

Our local area is becoming a 'full service' area from 21 November. This means that all new claimants who would have previously applied for the benefits listed above must apply for Universal Credit after this date (with some limited exceptions). There will then be a gradual migration of existing JSA, ESA and IS claimants to Universal Credit from 2018 until 2022.

Universal Credit differs from the existing benefit system in the following ways:

- Claims are made online only – it is not possible to make a paper application
- Payments are made monthly rather than fortnightly or four-weekly
- Claimants receive one payment which includes as many of the elements as apply
- The full amount of the Universal Credit payment is made directly to the Claimant

What about other welfare benefits?

Not all benefits are being replaced by Universal Credit. We can still help you with:

- Attendance Allowance (AA)
- Personal Independence Payment (PIP)
- Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- Contribution based JSA or ESA
- Council Tax Reduction
- Carers' Allowance
- Any other benefits

For more information or help about Universal Credit, other welfare benefits, or general advice please contact Paddock Wood Community Advice Centre at 64 Commercial Road, Paddock Wood, TN12 6DP Email: info@pwadvice.org Tel: 01892 838619

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be held on Thursday 1 November at 7.30pm at the Matfield Green Cricket Club Pavilion, Matfield, Kent. We would like to invite all of our supporters as well as any other interested party to join us. Refreshments will be provided.