

Newsletter No 11

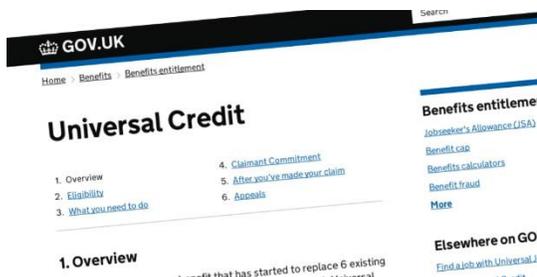
February 2015

Food Banks

On Thursday 5th February Financial Action and Advice Derbyshire hosted an extremely well received Foodbank Forum meeting attended by 37 people representing 14 Derbyshire Foodbanks as well as people from Fareshares, Derbyshire County Council, The Co-Op, Derbyshire Mind and Derbyshire Law Centre.

The meeting considered how Derbyshire can respond to the Feeding Britain report from the All Party Parliamentary Group looking at Food Poverty and followed on from the presentation given to Derbyshire County Council on 4th February.

Universal Credit roll out into Chesterfield and Erewash in February 2015



Universal Credit aims to simplify the existing benefit system by replacing 6 benefits with one monthly payment, providing both in and out of work benefits for working age claimants. It has been piloted in a number

of pathfinder areas and is now being rolled out across the country.

As Universal Credit rolls out into two areas of Derbyshire this February. These changes will only affect new claimants that are single and have no children. However as this benefit is paid in arrears it is likely that new claimants will have no income for 4 or 5 weeks.

We know that social landlords in the area are working with credit unions to help tenants set up budget accounts in advance to safeguard their rent payments.

But what about Private Sector tenants? Could we see an increase in evictions as tenants miss rent payments while they wait for their cash?

We'd urge anyone in this situation to open a credit union account instantly as Universal Credit payments can be made into any credit union account [ABCUL news](#) and claimants may be able to borrow money to tide them over and keep their rent payments up to date, rather than resorting to high cost lenders.

Credit Union Seminar at Derby Cathedral

Derby Diocese and Derby Cathedral are hosting a seminar on credit unions on 24th February. The seminar is open to all and aims to explain what a credit union is, how it can help support financial inclusion and what churches and congregations can do to support their local credit union.

<http://www.derbycathedral.org/news.asp?ID=457>

Targeted support



Do you have clients with money worries? Maybe they need some help with opening a bank account, managing their money, or getting help with problem debts? Do your staff or volunteers know where to signpost clients to get them the help they need?

If so, you need to attend one of our FREE networking seminar events taking place around the county during February and March.

<http://t.co/oW1vHw6xCN>

Research Round-up

Feeding Britain – A strategy for zero hunger

The report of the All Party Parliamentary Group inquiry in Food Poverty and Hunger was published in December.

It concludes that it is the erosion of a national minimum income that has led to the rise of the food bank movement in Britain. Long term price increases in the cost of food, housing and utilities has reduced the income margin or “buffer” that quickly plunges family budgets into crisis when income is cut.

Benefit sanctions and delays are the single biggest reason for referrals to food banks, a fact borne out by the latest data from Derbyshire Foodbanks.

Read the full report

<http://foodpovertyinquiry.org/>

RURALmatters

February 2015

Latest Rural Matters Newsletter covering how to get the best energy prices, including community oil buying scheme and a two year Village SOS campaign.

[RURALmatters Feb 2015](#)

Sailors' Children's Society

Did you or your partner ever work at sea?
On cruise ships, tankers, ferries, cargo ships, Royal Navy, fishing fleets?

Bringing up the children and in need of some support?

Call: Seafarers children's support: 0800 0556558
We give grants for children, holidays and home computers to name a few or can be just someone to talk to!

Contact us

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