

Money matters



We have seen some changes to Universal Credit legislation over the last couple of months:

- Effective from 14 February 2018. Previously, there were 7 'waiting days' built into the Universal Credit system which meant that you did not receive benefit for the first 7 days. However, if you make a new claim for Universal Credit after 14 February 2018 you will no longer have to wait seven days for the claim to start.
- Effective from 11 April 2018. If you are claiming housing benefit and are moved over to Universal Credit, you will receive a further 2 weeks of Housing Benefit payments. This is to assist you with the transition from the old legacy benefits, which were paid weekly and fortnightly, to Universal Credit, which is paid monthly in arrears. In effect, you will receive both Universal Credit and Housing Benefit for this period.
- Previously, 18 to 21 year olds were unable to claim the housing element of Universal Credit. However, it was recently announced that this has been reversed and this age group will now be able to claim. We are awaiting further information from central government as to when this will become effective.

If you need help and support to complete your Universal Credit claim you can call into Dudley Council Plus where staff will be able to provide you with assistance.

Don't forget - in order to make your claim for Universal Credit you will need a bank account and an email address. Once you have made a claim it is important that you also make contact with the Income Team at Housing Services on 01384 811689 to advise them of your Universal Credit start date.

Save cash with the Big Switch

Dudley Council's Big Switch has made it easy to switch energy supplier and save. Thousands have registered for the hassle free scheme, saving up to £300 on their gas and electricity bills.

The next Big Switch scheme will launch in September. Its free and easy to register for market leading deals.

**Find out more at
www.dudley.gov.uk/bigswitch**

The logo for Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, featuring the word 'Dudley' in a large, white, serif font, with 'Metropolitan Borough Council' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it, all set against a dark blue background.

Dudley
Metropolitan Borough Council