Supporting our tenants through Welfare Reform

Universal Credit

Universal Credit (UC) replaces the six main means tested benefits and tax credit for people of working age.

- Income Support

- Income Based JSA

- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance

- Housing Benefit

- Child Tax Credit

- Working tax credit

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Universal Credit

- Began in Nottingham in February 2016
- Currently only for single, fit for work, non-homeowners in Nottingham City
- Roll out of the full digital service will be in June 2018

- Currently we have 341 live cases
- 80% of tenants on UC are in arrears,
- £648 average arrears, double that of tenants not on UC
- Job Centre Plus outreach

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Benefit Cap

- Currently 232 tenants affected
- As of Autumn 2016, Benefit Cap limits – per week:

Situation	Current	New
Single	£350	£257.69
Lone parent	£500	£384.62
Couple	£500	£384.62
Couple with children	£500	£384.62

Under 22s

- No automatic help with housing costs in Universal Credit from April 2017. However this only affects claimants on full digital service.

- Exclusions:
  - Parents
  - Vulnerable groups –those with health issues and careleaver
  - Young people unable to live with parents
  - Working young people
  - Those who have been in work for 6 months plus – for the first 6 months after leaving work

- Unable to claim DHP

Tenancy Support

Nottingham City Homes

How do we help our tenants?

- Tenancy Sustainment Team

  Benefit queries / claims
  Charitable applications – Fifty Fund, Severn Trent Trust
  Debt Advice Service referrals
  JCP outreach
  Food Bank Outreach Session at Knightsclose
- Emergency Hardship fund applications
- Discretionary Housing Payment Applications
- Sound As A Pound
- Tenant Academy
- Employability
- Fuel Poverty

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Employability Strategy

3 Core Strands

1. **Tenants Academy**

2. **Partnership working**

3. **Build on and continue the success of our internal apprentice programme - to support this, create entry level roles within Nottingham City Homes to support the recruitment of local residents**

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Questions?

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