Housing Benefit Update

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Haringey Landlords Forum
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Council Tax Reduction Scheme

- A key change of The Welfare Reform Act 2012, was to abolish Council Tax Benefit from April 2013, and replace it with a local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS)

- Local Authorities will receive 10% reduced government funding from Council Tax Benefit to finance this scheme

- Claimants of pension credit age are protected from all changes, and will continue to receive the same level of support.

- Following consultation it was agreed that in addition to pensioners those in receipt of certain disability benefits would be protected from the changes. All other working age claimants will have to pay something towards their council tax.
Council Tax Reduction Scheme

In addition to this the following changes have been implemented:

- Support will not be given to those with capital or savings above £10,000
- Entitlement is removed if less than a £1 per week is currently awarded

DHPs cannot be used to meet shortfalls in Council Tax.
Support Fund

• Haringey’s Support Fund replaces the “Social Fund” that was previously run by the DWP and JobCentre Plus.
• There are 2 types of award covered by the Support Fund:
  ➢ Crisis Payments provide help for people who need money quickly because of an emergency or disaster.
  ➢ Community Care Payments Grants are intended to help people remain in the community
• All awards are discretionary, which means that even if you are eligible you will only get one if the administrators decide that your need is important and there is enough money left in the DWP allocated Social Fund budget
• Only one payment can be given in any 12 month period
Universal Credit

- The initial pathfinder for Universal Credit has begun and feedback from the DWP is that the timetable for new claims moving across from October 2013 remains on target.

- In preparation for this we are reviewing our processes and procedures and planning for the future changes to the Service
HB Processing

At the end of the financial year processing times at Haringey for new claims and changes in circumstances against a target of 19 days were 15.27

To date 2013/14 processing times at Haringey for new claims and changes in circumstances against a target of 19 days is 17.35