Universal Credit
The Journey So Far
The Road to Reform

As part of Department for Work and Pension welfare reform, Universal Credit will create a simpler, fairer benefits system and aims to make sure claimants are better off in work than on benefits.
Universal Credit has been introduced in stages from April 2013 and the process will be completed by 2017:

Early introduction began on the 29th of April in selected areas within the local authorities of Oldham, Tameside, Warrington and Wigan.

Ashton-under-Lyne became the first Jobcentre to accept Universal Credit claims.
Pathfinder (cont.)

• Gradual national rollout started from October 2013, with Jobcentres in Rugby, Inverness, Harrogate, Bath and Shotton taking new claims on a rollout programme between October and Spring 2014.

• By 2017 Universal Credit will be paid to everyone who has a right to receive it.
UC in London

- Hammersmith was the first London office to roll out Universal Credit on the 28.10.13
- The first claims to be taken here will be the most simple and straight forward. Typically this would be a single householder, in rented accommodation, who would have previously claimed JSA.
What is Changing?

• The introduction of a single monthly payment into accounts.
• The responsibility to manage money, including paying rent to the landlord.
• When people are in work the monthly Universal Credit payment will go up and down in line with take home pay.
What is Changing?

• The introduction of new accounts with features to help claimants manage their money

• New advances of payment to replace the existing Social Fund Crisis Loan, interim payments and Budgeting Loans.

• The introduction for some people of alternative payment arrangements to help build towards managing on the normal direct monthly payment.
Any Questions?