

CHC Update

UK Government – budget announcements

- £20 UC uplift extended for six months
- Advance applicants offered the option of payments over a 24-month period, rather than 12
- Normal maximum deduction rate will change from 30% to 25% of the standard allowance
- Minimum Income Floor for UC to remain suspended until the end of July 2021
- More detail in Neil Couling letter

DWP Roundtable updates

Managed migration

- Harrogate pilot still suspended
- Sec of State keen to keep to deadline for Move to UC at Feb 2024
- 12 months of managed migration and pilot lost, but increase in natural migration

MPTL

- Attendees called for improvements to new MPTL – DWP to respond asap
- Further requests for improvement today welcome – please put in chat or wave to raise at end of update

CHC Update

Welsh Government

- Welsh Government have launched the benefits take up campaign and issued a stakeholder toolkit – feedback and questions welcome
- CHC has joined the WG Income Maximisation and Benefit Take Up Working Group
- CHC Manifesto and Action Plans
 - Reference rise in UC claimants as a driver for digital inclusion
 - Possible asks for the next government to work with DWP Wales to mitigate the impact of digital exclusion on benefit claimants [*following from Jan SDG meeting*]

Data alignment T&F Group

- Purpose: to create proposals for an aligned approach to benchmarking for welfare influencing across HAs

Areas of focus for an aligned approach

- Gross arrears for rent and service charges on social rent properties only (anything covered by the rent policy)
- Exploring adjustments to take into account difference in timings
- 5 wk wait: considering new social rent tenant arrears, 0-6 and 6-12 wks, UC and non-UC
- Tenancy sustainment for UC and non-UC

Data alignment T&F Group

Next steps

- Group to test some draft questions with these areas of focus using their own data
- Report back to meeting in April
- Create final proposals during April meeting, and agree approach to presenting to the sector.

Regional welfare networks

- Meetings have been held by Cardiff and the Vale, Hywel Dda and Cwm Taf groups
- Gwent and North Wales groups already well established
- Chair appointed for Powys group
- Representatives attending DWP Roundtable
- Lots of really interesting work being done – more on this later

Any questions or comments?

- **MPTL**
- **Welsh Government benefit take up campaign**
- **Data alignment work**
- **Regional networks**

Break out groups – 20 mins

- What formal or informal methods does your HA use to capture tenants' views and experiences?
- How could this be used to capture tenants' views and experiences on particular welfare issues?
- What are the risks and benefits of capturing a snap shot of tenant views and experiences in this way?

Remember to agree someone to report back to plenary

**Diolch.
Thanks.**

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