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Welfare Reform Update: Universal Credit, LHA & Supported Housing

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LOCAL HOUSING ALLOWANCE

Scrapped for social housing- no longer applied from April 2019

No longer apply to under 35s- shared accommodation rate

No plans to reintroduce

Our lobbying prior to announcement

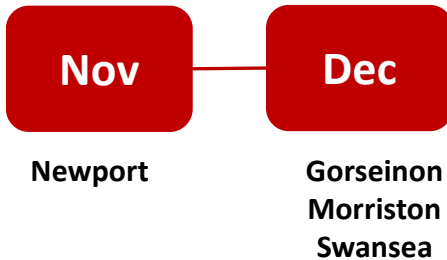
- Report on current impact of LHA in PRS (available on [CHC website](#))
- Engagement with WG (to continue)

Changes introduced in budget this week:

- December: Easier for claimants to have housing element paid direct to private landlords
- January: Advance payments worth up to 100% & pay over 12 months. Spring- apply online.
- February: 7 day waiting period abolished. 6 to 5 weeks.
- April: HB paid for additional 2 weeks for those already on HB
- Universal support reviewed
- Closing live service
- Tests & trials on in-work progression
- Rollout to be slowed between February & April 2018

Universal Credit Rollout dates for Wales

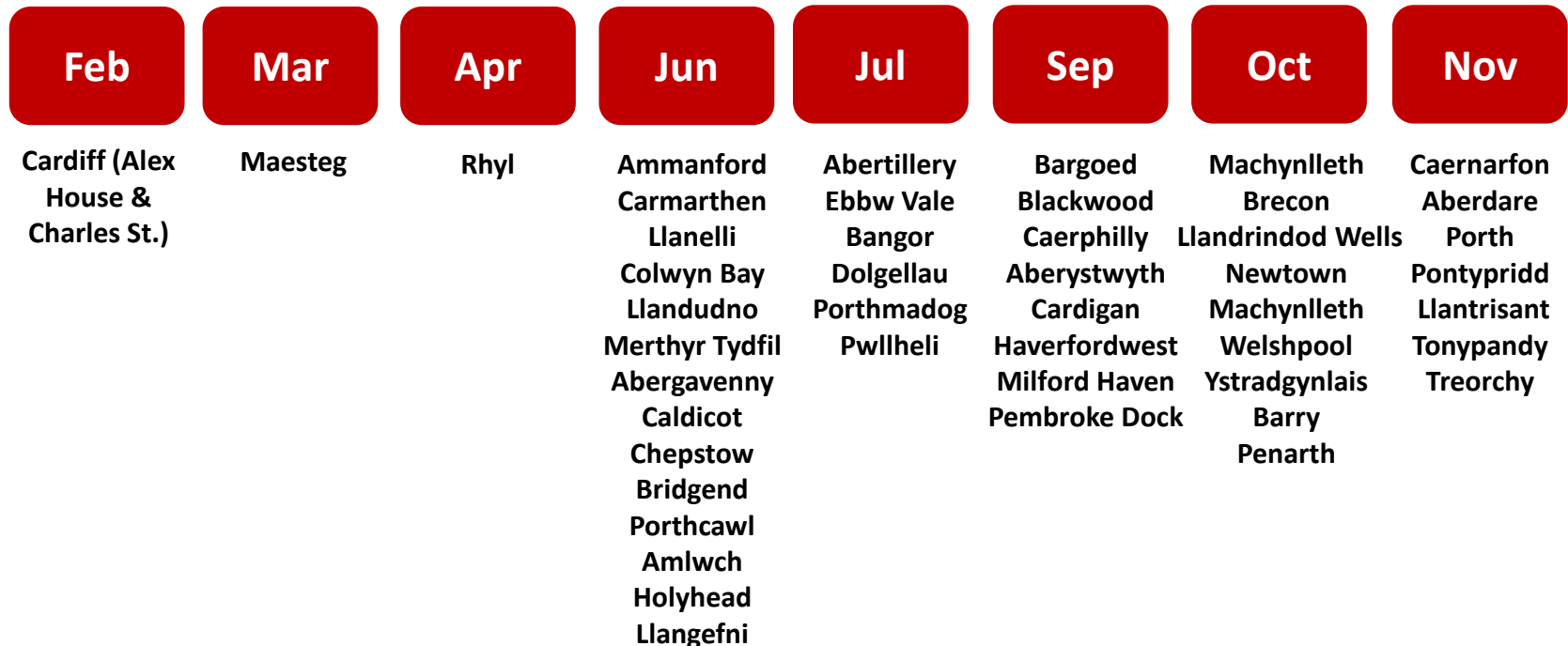
2017



The roll-out of Universal Credit ‘full service’ will be completed in Wales in November 2018. The schedule was updated in November 2017 following the Autumn Budget.

After the rollout process has completed, DWP will then begin moving all remaining existing benefit claimants to the Universal Credit full service starting in 2019.

2018



Our work is a three tiered approach:

1) Developing evidence base on impact of UC through research.

2) Working with members & DWP to identify improvements.

3) Lobbying for changes & improvements. Reduce waiting time to 4 weeks, pay housing costs sooner & flexible payments incl. direct to landlord, & rollout landlord portal & TPS ASAP to improve communication & processing

Supported Accommodation

UK Government [White Paper](#) announced new funding models from April 2020.

Tripartite funding model ([CHC briefing](#) available)

1. Sheltered & Extra Care – Sheltered Rent (but not in Wales?)
2. Long Term – No change
3. Short Term & Emergency Supported Accommodation – 100% grant

CHC responding to UK Government consultation on short term supported accommodation.

Working with Welsh Government steering group to co-produce policy advice on a Welsh model for funding short term supported accommodation

Further information:

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