

Welfare Reform - Timetable for change**Appendix 2****April 2016**

'Good cause' for backdating a Housing Benefit claim was reduced to one month for working age customers. Pension age claims remain at three months.

Most working age and some pension age benefits were frozen for four years. Local Housing Allowance maximum rent levels were frozen and social housing rents had to be reduced by 1% each year until 2020

May 2016

The family premium for calculating Housing Benefit was removed for new and existing claimants who became responsible for a child after this date.

July 2016

New regulations were introduced in housing benefit and pension credit to reduce the period a person can be temporary absent outside of Great Britain from 13 to 4 weeks.

November 2016

Revised benefit cap rates are to be introduced which limits the maximum income someone who is unemployed or sick can get in out of work benefits, housing benefit, child benefit and child tax credits to £20,000 a year if couple/lone parent/family or £13,400 if single

From April 2017

New claims for Housing Benefit or Universal Credit will be restricted to two children and existing claims where a third child is born (subject to possible exceptions for twins).

Supported social housing may be included in the 1% rent reduction each year until 2020

It is proposed that no Housing Benefit (housing allowance in Universal Credit) will be paid from April 2017 for single 18-21 year olds making a new claim, if they have not worked continuously in the preceding six months.

Awaiting decisions on 'Pay to Stay', supported accommodation and treatment of homeless

Possible major review/ public consultation on the long term council tax support scheme for working age customers in Cheltenham and small changes to the pension age scheme

January / February 2018

Anticipated live date for all new working age claims for Universal credit in Cheltenham

From April 2018

Tenants in the social housing sector will have their rent restricted to the LHA rates for all new tenancies signed after 1st April 2016. Single people under 35 will mainly be affected

September/ October 2019

Transfer of remaining housing benefit cases for working age customers to Universal credit

