

# Welfare Reform for Housing Workers 2012

## What is this course about?

An essential course for Housing Workers, it will give delegates an understanding of the forthcoming Welfare Reform changes including those outlined in the government's Welfare Reform Bill. Delegates will have the opportunity to ask questions, and to investigate and discuss the likely impact of the key changes by looking at case studies. It will also look at practical ways of informing customers about the changes, as well as providing delegates with tools and ideas about what can be done to minimise the impact of the changes on their customers and organisations.

## Who is the course for?

Anyone in social housing who wishes to examine the key benefit changes taking place and how they will impact on their customers. A basic knowledge of the benefit system will be assumed.

## Learning Outcomes

- ✓ Reminder of reforms already underway including Tax Credits, non-dependant deduction increases, Local Housing Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance.
- ✓ Knowledge of the proposed 'Benefits Cap', and its likely impact on claimants and social housing providers.
- ✓ An understanding of the proposed 'Underoccupancy Penalty': who will be affected and by how much.
- ✓ Investigated Universal Credit: who it will be for, how will it be claimed, what help will there be for housing costs, how much will people get, how will it be paid, what will claimants need to do- conditionality.
- ✓ The future of Housing Benefit – what will be happening to claims from older people.
- ✓ Overview of other reform changes – Social Fund, Council Tax Benefit, Disability Living Allowance, Pension Credit; and their likely impact on claimants and social housing providers.

## Outline of Day

9.30am	<b>Introductions and Expectations</b>
9.40am	<b>Reform Refresher – what's already happening</b> Changes to Tax Credits 'Transfer' to ESA LHA / Non-dependant deductions Pension age changes  <b>2012 changes:</b> Tax Credits for working couples with children Time limiting of ESA
11.00am	<b>Break</b>
11.15am	<b>Housing Benefit</b> Under-occupancy penalty Benefits cap
12.30pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1.15pm	<b>Universal Credit</b> Who can claim, How to claim, How much Help with housing costs Conditionality Payments
2.45pm	<b>Break</b>
3.00pm	<b>Other Reform</b> The future of Housing Benefit Pension Credit Localised provision: Social Fund / Council Tax Support Disability Living Allowance / Personal Independence Payment
4.20pm	<b>Action Plan and Evaluation</b>
4.30pm	<b>Close</b>

*"I found this course very useful and interesting. The presentation was excellent and the summary sheets given out during the day were brilliant and will be useful to look back on as a guide to help answer my residents' questions."*

