

# DWP Annual Forum

## Welfare Reform and Housing Support Workshop

<p><b>Housing Benefit Changes</b></p> <p>2011</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Local Housing Allowance (LHA) to be no higher than rent</li><li>• LHA based on 30th percentile</li><li>• Restriction to 4 bed rate</li><li>• Easement to pay landlords where rent is affordable</li><li>• Staged increase in non-dependant deductions</li><li>• Additional room for overnight non-resident carers</li></ul> <p>2012</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Single Room Rent (SRR) extends to age 35</li></ul> <p>2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Uprating of Local Housing Allowance by CPI</li><li>• Benefits Cap (working age)</li><li>• Social Rented Sector size criteria restrictions (working age)</li></ul>	<p><b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DWP are committed to undertaking a comprehensive review of the April 2011 changes to HB</li><li>• The HB reforms will be reviewed by an independent, external group over a two year period</li><li>• It will include primary research to look at the effects on different types of households in a range of areas</li><li>• The evaluation will consider the impacts in London, the rest of England, Scotland and Wales</li><li>• Findings will be available from Spring 2012 onwards</li></ul>
<p><b>Housing Benefit into Universal Credit</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Universal Credit (UC) – merges benefits</li><li>• Support for rent to be paid within UC from October 2013</li><li>• Existing cases migrated from 2013 - 2017</li><li>• Transitional Protection for migrated cases</li><li>• Broader impacts</li><li>• Direct payments to claimants (with safeguards)</li></ul>	<p><b>Implementation and Support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work with local authorities and other government departments on implementation – key priority</li><li>• Stakeholder and communications strategy</li><li>• Guidance, best practice and model products</li><li>• Localism – future role for Local Authorities?</li></ul>
<p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Radical changes to the benefit system</li><li>• Move towards Universal Credit over time, with implications for Housing Benefit delivery</li><li>• Changes to the structure of Housing Benefit</li><li>• Will need to do things differently: on-line claims and real-time processing</li><li>• Major transformation and major challenge</li><li>• Key objective to increase employment and reduce poverty</li></ul>	