

Welfare Reform Summary

Aims of welfare reform

- Reduce welfare bill by £18 billion
- Simplify current system
- Give incentives to make work pay
- Reduced welfare dependency
- Pensioners not included or protected
- Affects people in and out of work

Personal Independence Payments

- Replacement for Disability Living Allowance
- Stricter eligibility
- Starting April 2013 in North West for new claims
- Conversion of existing Disability Living Allowance claims delayed until 2015.

Universal Credit

- Combination of benefits, tax credits and housing benefit
- Out of work and in work benefit
- One, monthly payment
- Direct payments to claimants
- Starting October 2013 for new claims

Under occupancy in social housing

- Cuts in Housing Benefit for social tenants who under occupy
- 14% cut for one bedroom & 25% cut for two or more bedrooms
- Introduced in April 2013
- Affecting 2000 households in Bury

Replacement for Social Fund

- Localisation of part of current Social Fund payments
 - People who need household items due to a new tenancy or to help them to stay in a household or community following lifetime events (e.g. leaving residential, institutional care or prison; housing someone fleeing domestic violence, or homeless)
 - Helping with elements of immediate crisis which are linked to a serious risk to someone's health and safety.

Council Tax Support scheme

- Local scheme agreed by council in December 2012
- Protection for pensioners, disabled, carers, the bereaved and war veterans
- Limit the maximum amount of Council Tax Support to the charge for a Band B property

How are we dealing with welfare reform?

- Welfare Reform Board
- Welfare Reform training
- Corporate approach to debt
- Digital champions

