

**Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council**

**Welfare Reform Frequently Asked Questions**

**August 2012**

**Q1. What age range of people will be affected by the welfare reform proposals?**

All working age people aged between 16-64 years will be affected by the forthcoming welfare reform proposals.

**Q2. What are the names of the new welfare benefits being introduced and when will they become active from?**

The key benefits being introduced will come into effect from April and October 2013 and comprise the following:

**Universal Credit** - is a new single payment for people who are looking for work or on a low income. Universal Credit will replace income-based Jobseeker's Allowance; income-related Employment and Support Allowance; Income Support; Child Tax Credits; Working Tax Credits and Housing Benefit.

This benefit will be rolled out nationally from October 2013, but selected English pilot areas will see this benefit introduced from 1 April 2013.

**Personal Independence Payment** - from 8 April 2013 the Government is introducing a new benefit called Personal Independence Payment (PIP) to replace Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for eligible working age people aged 16 to 64.

There are no current plans to replace Disability Living Allowance for children under 16 and people aged 65 and over who are already receiving Disability Living Allowance.

**Q3. Have payment rates and criteria been agreed yet for the Universal Credit system?**

The government has not agreed any payment rates or criteria as yet, however it is hoped that this information will be become known in the coming months. It is expected that some of the existing criteria and regulations applicable to current benefit categories will be used as a template for the forthcoming Universal Credit system.