

DWP Fife Update

Fife August 2016



Welfare Reform

Welfare Reform has introduced a simpler, fairer benefits system that helps ensure people are better off in work than on benefits.

Our reforms ...

Prepare the long-term unemployed for the world of work

Help to ensure people are better off in work than on benefits

Ensure people receive a fairer pension and are encouraged to save for retirement

Support families to stay together

Provide unconditional support for those who need it

Welfare Reform

The way we support working age claimants has changed and encourages them to take more personal responsibility and make our system easier to deliver.

The Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016 received Royal assent on 16 March 2016. It builds on the measures introduced in the Welfare Reform Act 2012.

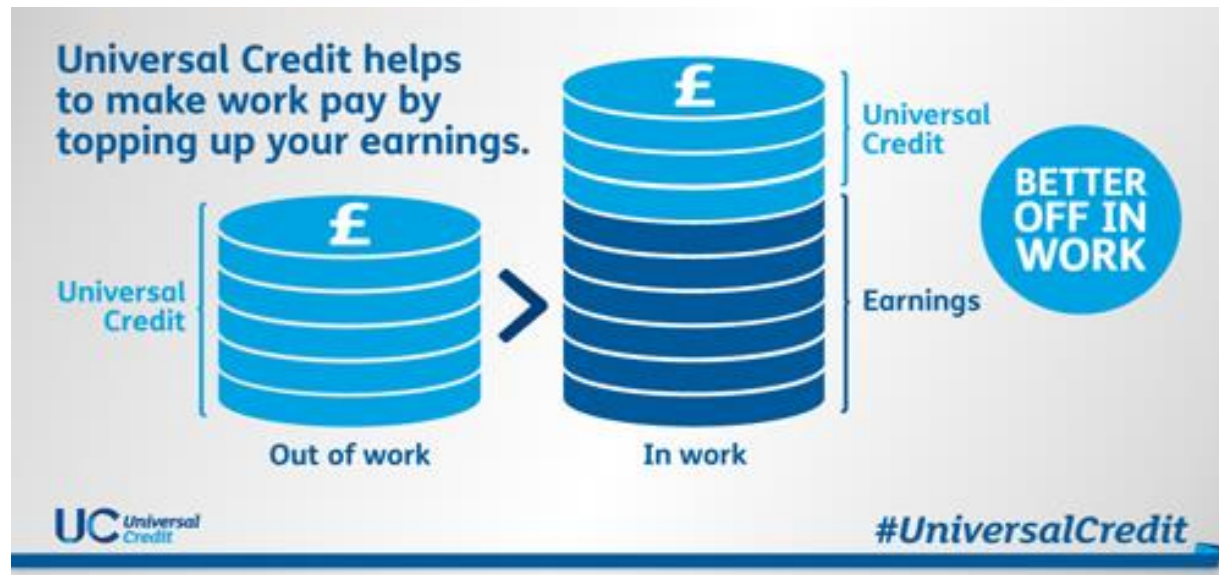
The governments aim with the reforms is to make the benefits and tax credits systems fairer and simpler by:

- creating the right incentives to get more people into work,
- protecting the most vulnerable in our society,
- delivering a welfare system that is affordable and fair to the tax payers as well as benefit claimants.

Universal Credit- Making work pay

Universal Credit helps to ensure people are better off in work than on benefits by:

- Removing the limit to the number of hours someone can work each week
- Reducing a claimant's Universal Credit payment **gradually** as their earnings increase, so they won't lose all their benefits at once if they're on a low income



Universal Credit

PBS - Personal Budgeting Support

- Universal Credit paid monthly. CARF are supporting customers with Personal Budgeting support.

APA –Alternative Payment Arrangements

- A Managed Payment to Landlord where the housing costs support is paid direct to the landlord; (97% of all APAs)
- A More Frequent Payment APA;
- A Split Payment APA (where both members of a couple receive part of their joint UC payment).

Benefit cap

Limit on the total amount of benefit that most people aged 16 to 64 can be paid.

The Welfare Reform and Work Act (2016) introduces some changes to the benefit cap. These changes, which will take effect in Autumn 2016, include changes to the benefit cap levels to £23,000 a year for couples with or without children and lone parents and £15,410 for single people without children in Greater London, and £20,000 and £13,400 respectively for those groups elsewhere in Great Britain.

They also include additional exemptions for recipients of Guardian's Allowance, Carer's Allowance and Universal Credit claimants who receive payments towards carer's costs.

Link to Benefit Calculator

<https://www.gov.uk/benefit-cap-calculator>

Customers can get help from local Jobcentres Work Coaches, Local Authority and Citizens Advice Right Fife

Support towards employment, IT, Benefit Check, Discretionary Housing Payments,

Personal Independence Payments and DLA

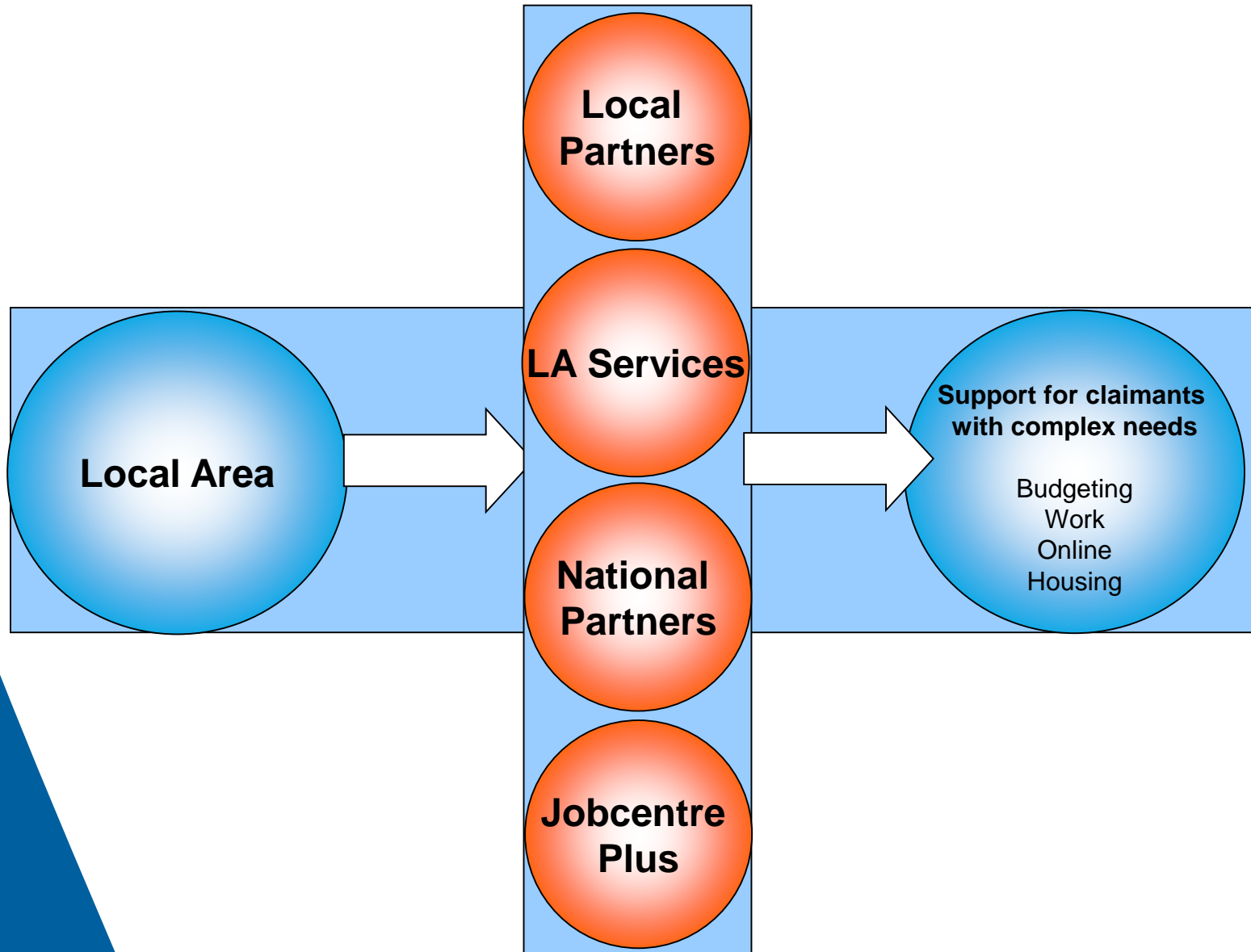
People will continue to get DLA until the Department for Work and Pensions writes to them to tell them when it will end and invite them to apply for PIP. People will continue to get DLA and not be invited to apply for PIP if: they were born on or before **8 April 1948** or are under the age of **16**

When PIP affects existing DLA claimants

We are inviting individuals to claim PIP when we receive information about a change in a person's care or mobility needs, a person's fixed term DLA award is due to end, children turn 16 years of age, people are on indefinite or long term awards who were born after 8 April 1948 and those who are 16 years old or over –

Customers invited through random selection process

Support for claimants





Any Questions?