

January 2021

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online full 1 day course(over two half days) 27/1/2021 to 28/1/2021(pm) or 22/2/2021 to 23/2/2021 or 24/3/2021 to 25/3/2021

An Overview of Universal Credit 2021
online full 1 day course(over two half days) 24/2/2021 to 25/2/2021

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online full 1 day course(over two half days) 17/3/2021 to 18/3/2021

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online full 1 day course(over two half days) 19/5/2021 to 20/5/2021

Contact us for in-house training provision.

Free Benefits Newsletter

For professionals

Severe Disability Premium(SDP) Universal Credit Gateway to End

From 27/1/2021, [regulations\(regulation 7\)](#) come into force to remove the Severe Disability Premium (SDP) Gateway. From this date, no new Housing Benefit, Income Support, ESA(IR) or JSA(IB) claims may be taken for claimants in receipt of SDP. These claimants will now be allowed to claim Universal Credit (UC) and considered for the new Transitional Element.

[Housing Benefit guidance A11/2020](#) gives a useful summary including -'..only people living in temporary or specified accommodation will be allowed to make new claims for working age HB.'

What does this mean for your client caseload? A lot more vulnerable claimants of Universal Credit for you- If your clients have generally avoided claiming Universal Credit due to severe disability, then a change of circumstance may mean they will have to move over to Universal Credit.

We have two courses on UC which include this issue-

More basic- [An Overview of Universal Credit 2021](#)

More advanced- [Universal Credit – the Tricky Parts 2021](#)

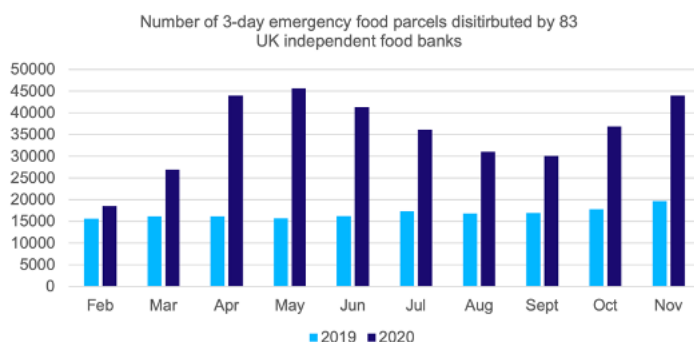
More details- Neil Couling, Universal Credit SRO has said about the transitional element that those who move over should be eligible for-

'... the transitional element will be subject to erosion and cessation in the same way as transitional protection for those people who are moved to UC under managed migration.'

So over time, clients will lose out.

Foodbank Use Up

[Interesting data](#) for 2020 has been published by The UK-wide Independent Food Aid Network (IFAN).



Book now for our **updated**– [Introduction to Benefits 2021](#) course.

SSP and Shielding

The DWP [has said](#)- 'Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) is available from the first day of absence to individuals who are unable to work because they have been advised to shield, for example where they can't work from home...If someone is clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV), they should not work outside the home while shielding is in place. If they cannot work from home, they should speak to their employer to see if there are any alternative arrangements that can be made e.g. using the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.'

Book Now - get Free Access to our Members' Area

Remember, [Membership](#) is free for 1 year if you attend one of our online courses. It supports learning post course.

This includes-

- Universal Credit Calculator
- At a Glance Guides and many other resources
- Consultancy Forum
- Ongoing news
- Benefit Rates Posters

Age	Rate	Notes
16-17	£4.75	Basic amount
18-24	£6.95	Basic amount
25-34	£9.15	Basic amount
35-44	£11.35	Basic amount
45-54	£13.55	Basic amount
55-64	£15.75	Basic amount
65+	£17.95	Basic amount

...and cook a simple meal unaided. 0

...is an aid or appliance to be able to either prepare or cook a simple meal using a conventional cooker but is able to do so with the aid of an appliance to be able to either prepare or cook a simple meal unaided. 0

...is an aid or appliance to be able to take nutrition; or to be able to cut up food. 2

COVID-19 or individuals who are unable to work because have been advised to self-isolate or people caring for those within the same household who display COVID-19 symptoms

Employers: advising them to use their discretion to require a GP fit note for COVID-19 related absences will bring forward a temporary alternative to the enabling people who are advised to self-isolate a notification via NHS111.

If not entitled to SSP, payable for people directly affected by COVID-19 or self-isolating according to government advice for the first day of sick rather than the eighth day.

Claim Universal Credit and access advance payment where they are directly affected by COVID-19 (or isolating), without the current requirement to be at jobcentre.

For the duration of the outbreak, the requirement the minimum income floor in Universal Credit will temporarily be relaxed for those directly affected by COVID-19 or self-isolating according to government advice for the duration of the outbreak, ensuring self-employment claimants will be compensated for losses in income.

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EU Nationals

The government has issued some very detailed guidance about the status of EU citizens and Benefits post Brexit.

'The Government has committed to ending free movement to the UK and introducing a new points-based immigration system. This means that there will no longer be separate arrangements for EEA citizens. Instead, there will be one new points-based immigration system...four new purposes...'

1. to align the treatment of EEA citizens who are not protected by the EU Withdrawal Agreement, the EEA European Free Trade Association Separation Agreement and the Swiss Citizens' Rights Agreement ("the Withdrawal Agreements") and the UK's implementation of those agreements, with non-EEA citizens in the immigration system from 1.1.21 (referred to throughout this memo as "newly arriving EEA citizens") and
2. to make some savings and transitional provisions, including for those with status under the EUSS (in addition to those made by and under the Withdrawal Agreement Act 2020) and
3. to amend provisions relating to retained EU law and
4. to reflect the Act's provisions to protect the rights of Irish citizens.'

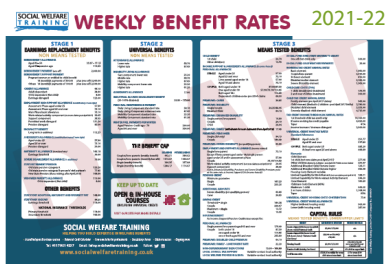
The guidance can be accessed here- [Memo 25/20- IS, JSA, ESA & SPC](#) And [Memo ADM 29/20](#)

Benefit Rates Poster 2021/ 2022

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If you haven't already, subscribe to this newsletter (and receive a new updated 2021/22 free benefits poster in the New year(will be sent later January 2021). [click here](#)

Book now for our **updated** [Introduction to Benefits 2021](#) course.



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