



UNIVERSAL CREDIT UPDATE

Universal Credit (UC) was first launched in 2013 and the rollout of the 'Full Service' to all Jobcentres, including to our area, was completed just over a year ago. UC replaces six 'legacy' benefits and tax credits for working-age households and the migration of all households claiming legacy benefits and tax credits across to UC is currently expected to be completed by 2023, through natural or managed migration. Government figures¹ report that, as of May 2019, 1,152 households in Tunbridge Wells Borough claimed UC, of which 39% were households with children, whilst around 5,470 claimed legacy benefits.

UC works differently from legacy benefits. The biggest differences are:

- you can get UC if you're unemployed but also if you're working
- you'll usually get a single payment each month, rather than weekly or fortnightly
- instead of getting a separate housing benefit, your rent will usually be paid directly to you as part of your monthly UC payment

UC is made up of a basic monthly 'standard allowance' and extra payments if you:

- look after one or more children
- work and pay for childcare
- need help with housing costs
- are disabled or have a health condition
- are a carer for a disabled person or you have a disabled child

You can claim UC at the same time as claiming Personal Independence Payment (PIP), Council Tax Reduction (CTR) or even alongside contribution-based or 'new style' Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) / Employment and Support Allowance (ESA).

For more information about Universal Credit, Welfare Benefits or general advice, please contact Paddock Wood Community Advice Centre at 64 Commercial Road, Paddock Wood, Kent, TN12 6DP; Email info@pwadvice.org or call 01892838619.

If you would like to volunteer with us, please also contact us on the details above.



Paddock Wood Community Advice Centre would like to wish all of our Trustees, Volunteers, Clients, Funders, Stakeholders and Supporters a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

We will be closed between Christmas and the New Year as usual, please check our website for more information.

¹ <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/social-policy/welfare-pensions/benefits/constituency-data-universal-credit-roll-out/>