

Changes in circumstances whilst in receipt of benefits - single parents

It is your responsibility to inform the relevant Departments of any changes in your circumstances to avoid a potential overpayment/underpayment. Disclaimer: This is not full guidance, always refer to www.gov.uk for the most up to date information

What you're in receipt of now	How and when will things change?	What will I get in the future?
Jobseekers Allowance	<p>Jobseekers Allowance will end when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you begin work of 16 hours per week or more; or • your earnings exceed your JSA. 	<p>Once you are working 16 hours of more, you will need to claim Universal Credit: www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit</p>
Employment and Support Allowance	<p>Employment and Support Allowance will end:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when you begin work of 16 hours per week or more; or • when your earnings exceed your ESA (unless you are doing permitted work); or • if you are found to be fit for work following your Work Capability Assessment. 	<p>Once you are working 16 hours per week or more, you will need to make a claim for Universal Credit: www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit</p> <p>Permitted work rules explained: www.gov.uk/government/publications/employment-and-support-allowance-permitted-work-form/permitted-work-factsheet</p>
Income Support for Lone Parents or top up to Carer's Allowance	<p>Income Support will end when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you start work of 16 hours or more per week; or • your earnings exceed your Income Support; or • your youngest child reaches 5; or • the person you care for dies or moves into residential care. 	<p>Once you are working over 16 hours per week, you will need to make a claim to Universal Credit; or when your Income Support stops. Income Support will continue for 8 weeks after the bereavement. www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit</p>
Housing Benefit	<p>Most changes are likely to trigger moving to Universal Credit. Refer to www.entitledto.co.uk/help/changes_that_trigger_Universal_Credit.</p>	<p>Contact your local District Council first www.westsussex.gov.uk/about-the-council/your-other-local-councils, and if advised claim Universal Credit www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit.</p>
Council Tax Reduction	<p>Council Tax Reduction is calculated on a sliding scale, the more you earn, the less you get. If you remain on a low income, a proportion of your Council Tax may still be paid.</p>	<p>For an accurate forecast, refer to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your local District Council www.westsussex.gov.uk/about-the-council/your-other-local-councils; or • www.entitledto.co.uk; or • www.turn2us.org.uk.
Child Benefit	<p>Child Benefit will not usually change when you return to work. It is paid until the 31 August following the child's 16th birthday. If your child remains in education post 16, you need to notify Child Benefit. Child benefit will continue until your child reaches 20 if they remain in full time non-advanced education.</p>	<p>If you earn over £50k per year, you may have to pay a <i>high income child benefit charge</i> www.gov.uk/child-benefit-tax-charge</p> <p>If Child Benefit stops, Child Tax Credits will also cease, as will the child element of Universal Credit. www.gov.uk/report-changes-child-benefit</p>

What you're in receipt of now	How and when will things change?	What will I get in the future?
Child Tax Credit	<p>If you start work and you have no housing costs or a mortgage, you currently have a choice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claim working tax credit alongside child tax credit; or • Claim Universal Credit <p>However, if you do have housing costs, you will need to claim Universal Credit.</p>	<p>Child Tax Credits, Working Tax Credits and Universal Credit. How much you get depends on your circumstances and income. For an accurate forecast refer to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.entitledto.co.uk; or • www.turn2us.org.uk. <p>You can get help with approved childcare costs on Tax Credits up to £530.83 extra per month for 1 child, or up to £910 for 2 or more children. With Universal Credit, you can receive help with approved childcare costs up to £646 per month for one child or up to £1108 per month for 2 or more.</p>
Working Tax Credit	<p>You must inform tax credits straight away of any changes.</p> <p>Working Tax Credit will cease if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your working hours drop below 16; or • you leave your job. <p>If you are off work due to illness, Working Tax Credit will continue for up to 28 weeks.</p>	<p>If your hours drop below 16, you will need to claim Universal Credit.</p> <p>If you leave your job, you will receive another 4 weeks of Working Tax Credit following the end of your job, then claim Universal Credit.</p> <p>If you are still sick after 28 weeks, you will need to claim Universal Credit.</p>
Personal Independence Payment (PIP)	<p>PIP continues regardless of a new job as it is not a means tested benefit. PIP continues for the duration of your award unless you cancel it due your condition and functioning improving.</p>	<p>Refer to www.gov.uk/pip or contact the PIP Helpline 0800 121 4433</p>
Carers Allowance	<p>Carers Allowance will end if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you start earning £128 or more per week after tax, insurance and expenses (however you may be eligible for the Carers component of Universal Credit); or • your caring responsibilities reduce below 35 hours per week or stop altogether. (This may end your Income Support claim); or • you return to full-time Education or Training; or • the person you care for dies. 	<p>Refer to www.gov.uk/carers-allowance or contact the Carer's Allowance Helpline 0345 608 4321.</p> <p>Make a claim to Universal Credit www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit</p> <p>What you may be entitled to depends on your circumstances and income, refer to www.entitledto.co.uk or www.turn2us.org.uk for an accurate forecast.</p> <p>Depending on your circumstances, you may be entitled to alternate financial support through your training provider, student finance or potentially Universal Credit.</p> <p>You will receive an 8-week run of Carers Allowance following a death. This applies to Income Support too.</p> <p>After this claim Universal Credit www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit.</p>