



## **Housing Benefit is changing for those who are single, under 35 and have no dependent children?**

The UK Government is restricting the amount of Housing Benefit that those who are single, aged 35 or under, with no dependent children can receive.

- Will you be affected?

You will be if you are under 35, single and with no dependent children.

The changes will take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018, although all tenancies started after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 will be under the new rules.

- How much is the restriction?

Housing Benefit is being restricted to Local Housing Allowance Rates, which is currently £250.00 per month. This means that the maximum Housing Benefit you can ever receive is £250.00 pm if you are a single claimant – even if your rent is more than this.

- What should I do now?

If you currently receive Housing Benefit and don't expect your circumstances to change over the next few years, we strongly suggest you check if your rent will be subject to a restriction, and if so, if you can afford to pay the shortfall.

If not, you may wish to consider if this is the right property for you.

- Is there any help available?

If you have a shortfall in your Housing Benefit, you can try applying for a Discretionary Housing Payment. However, as the name suggests, this is a discretionary fund and there is no guarantee that you will receive a payment.

Abertay can help you with this application – so please get in touch.

- Where can I go for advice?

Our Welfare Officer, **Richard Pinner**, is available to answer your questions and help. If you want to speak with him then call: **01382 513826** or come into the office at **147 Fintry Mains**.