

## Join Unite Community today

Unite community members are coming together across the UK to defend those most at risk because of these welfare changes. Unite community is open to anybody, aged 16-116, out of work, retired or studying. If you want to find out how you can be part of this, visit [www.unitetheunion.org/community](http://www.unitetheunion.org/community)

## LOCAL HOUSING ALLOWANCE

The way that Local Housing Allowance rates are worked out has changed. This means that most Local Housing Allowance rates have gone down. For more information and to view the most up to date Local Housing Allowance Rates contact your local council.

Local Housing Allowance Rates will now only be reviewed once a year. New rates will be published each April.

Unite believes that many of the government reforms to welfare benefits are unfair and unnecessary, and we are campaigning against them. To get involved email: [community@unitetheunion.org](mailto:community@unitetheunion.org) or go to [www.ourwelfareworks.com](http://www.ourwelfareworks.com)

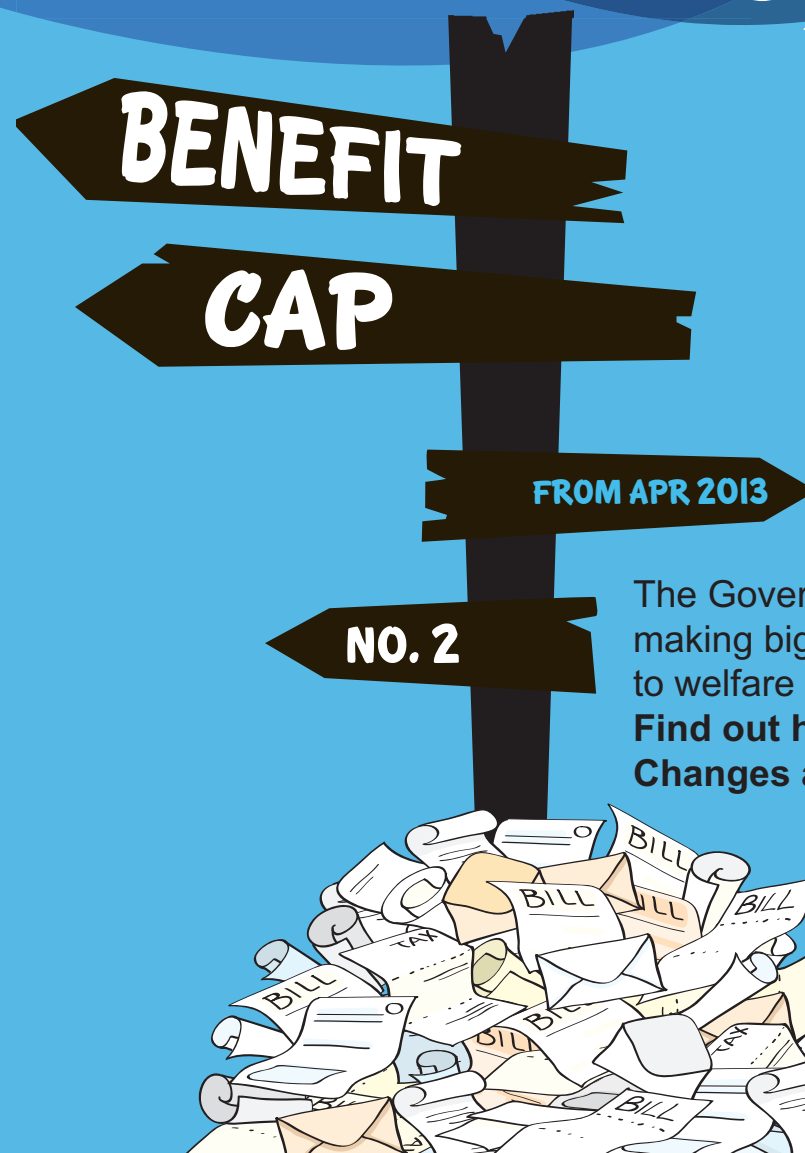


## WHO CAN I TALK TO ABOUT THE BENEFIT CHANGES?

DWP Helpline: ..... 0845 6057 064  
DWP Text Phone: ..... 0845 608 3557  
Citizens Advice Bureau: ..... 0844 4111 44 (landline)  
..... 0300 3300 650 (mobile)  
Housing and Council Tax Benefit: ..... Contact your local council

# BENEFIT CHANGES

## ARE YOU PREPARED?



[www.unitetheunion.org](http://www.unitetheunion.org)

# 2. BENEFIT CAP

From April 2013 there will be a national cap on the amount of benefits a single person or family can receive. The cap is £500 a week for a family, and £350 a week for a single person. This is known as the benefit cap.

## QUESTION

How could the benefit cap affect me?

## ANSWER

- If you are already getting more than £500 (family) or £350 (single) a week in benefit, your Housing Benefit will be reduced and you may have to move to cheaper housing.
- It could affect larger family households in particular those with four or more children.
- It could mean a reduction of between £12 and £70 per week in Housing Benefit, although some households could face bigger reductions.

## QUESTION

Will there be any exceptions to the capping requirements?

## ANSWER

The benefit cap does not apply where any household member receives:

- Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments.
- Attendance Allowance.
- The support component of Employment and Support Allowance.
- Working Tax Credit.
- War Widows/Widowers Pensions.

For more information on the benefit cap visit [www.direct.gov.uk/benefitcap](http://www.direct.gov.uk/benefitcap)  
If you have received a letter from the Department for Work and Pensions advising you that you may be affected by the benefits cap and need more information please telephone their helpline on **0845 6057 064** or textphone **0845 6088 551** for people with hearing or speech impairments.

[www.unitetheunion.org](http://www.unitetheunion.org)

