

## 🌀 November 2024 Update: How can the Citizens' Advice Bureau Help? 🌀

The November group session, held on 14<sup>th</sup> November, was an opportunity to find out 'How can the Citizens' Advice Bureau Help?', and we were very fortunate to have [Learning Difficulties and Disabilities Case Worker, Caroline Duncan from the C.A.B.](#) to present to us, and take our questions that evening.

It was a really lively and informative discussion, where we learned a lot and benefited from her experience and knowledge. Sadly, our technology was not behaving that day, and those who had signed up to join remotely were unable to. However, the key points that were shared are detailed here, and Caroline is very happy to be our point of contact if you have any specific questions or support needs. If you were not able to be there but have a particular question for her, please email Caroline via: [caroline.duncan@chapeltowncab.org.uk](mailto:caroline.duncan@chapeltowncab.org.uk) and she will respond directly. Caroline can also signpost to a PIP support worker, should you need help with any PIP applications, reviews and appeals.



### **Key points from discussion:**

- ❖ **Universal Credit:**
  - This is separate from PIP (Personal Independence Payments)
  - Also separate from Child Benefit
  - Anyone who was previously claiming the legacy 'Employment Support Allowance', would now need to be on Universal Credit instead. Migration letters should have been sent.
  - Anyone who previously received Child Tax Credit would also migrate to U.C. The payment amount from previous benefits are protected for 1 year.

### **Eligibility**

- ❖ **Universal Credit** is for anyone who is:
  - Over 18
  - Living in the UK
  - Under the pension age
  - Has less than £16,000 (**personally**) in money, savings or investments. (i.e. not parents' savings)
  - in full-time education\*, therefore not able to work
- ❖ **Earnings:** Because U.C. is tailored to each person, there is no specific earnings 'cut off'. Contact C.A.B. for more information about this.
- ❖ **Savings:** Any savings less than £6,000 will not affect your award. Savings of between £6k - £16k means U.C. is reduced.
- ❖ **Work capability assessment:** Evidence may be needed to support this. Contact C.A.B. if you are asked for this.
- ❖ Caroline has offered to create a proforma to help with anyone wishing to apply for U.C. \*\* Info to follow.
- ❖ LFT can support parents/carers by providing a letter to prove the young person is in full-time education.
- ❖ **Vulnerable Persons Bursaries** are also available (£30 per week) if a young person gets PIP and U.C.

\*Supported Internships and Pre-internships are classed as full-time, non-advanced education.

\*\*Data provided to C.A.B. is not shared with LFT

**For more information, please visit the [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/universal-credit](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/universal-credit) page.**



[Click to join our parent carer Facebook group](#)

We look forward to seeing you at [the next in-person group session, 5:00-6:30pm on Thursday December 12th](#) either in-person or [online](#), when Shelley will be presenting on the topic of *accessing social care, P.A.s and activities*. [Please book your free ticket on Eventbrite](#) and we will see you then!



Best wishes,  
Emily and Shelley

