## Working out your Local Housing Allowance

# if you are under 25

**Marcus** is single. He is aged 23.

He is entitled to one bedroom for himself. However, as he is under 25, he is entitled to the shared room Local Housing Allowance rate.

Local Housing Allowance is a new way of working out new claims for Housing Benefit for tenants renting accommodation from a private landlord. It also affects tenants already getting Housing Benefit who move into accommodation rented from a private landlord. Local Housing Allowance is being introduced on 7 April 2008.

To work out how much benefit you might be entitled to, you need to work out the Local Housing Allowance that your claim will be based on.

If you are aged under 25, single and do not have any dependents, you will only be entitled to the shared room Local Housing Allowance rate.

**There are extra rules if you are:**

- *A care leaver aged under 22*
- *Severely disabled*

You can find out the Local Housing Allowance rates by contacting our benefits team on **01252 398 914** or visiting our website at **www.rushmoor.gov.uk/benefits**

We will also publish the rates monthly at the Council Offices in Farnborough Road, Farnborough and Princes Gardens, Aldershot.

You also need to find out if you can get the full amount of benefit.

RUSHMOOR BOROUGH COUNCIL

**The amount of benefit you can get may be affected by:**

- *Any money you have coming in*
- *Any savings you have*
- *How much your rent is*
- *If you have anyone living with you who is over 18 and not your partner or dependent child*
- *If you share paying the rent with someone else who is not your partner*

## Joint tenants

If you are a joint tenant this might affect the benefit that you are entitled to. For more information, please contact us at the address shown on the back of this leaflet.

## What if my rent is less than the Local Housing Allowance rate that applies to me?

If your rent is lower than the LHA rate you are entitled to, you will be able to keep the difference up to a maximum of £15 a week.

If the difference is more than £15, you will still only be able to get £15.

## If you would like more information

Phone our benefits team on **01252 398 914**

Visit the Council Offices in Farnborough Road, Farnborough or Princes Gardens in Aldershot.

Visit our website **www.rushmoor.gov.uk**

e-mail us at **benefits@rushmoor.gov.uk**

Visit **www.direct.gov.uk**

Remember that this leaflet is a guide only. It is not meant to say exactly what your legal rights are. While we have tried to make sure that the information in this leaflet is correct at the time of printing, it is possible that there may be incorrect information or some ideas may be simplified.

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Tel: 01252 398 398 ■ www.rushmoor.gov.uk ■ Produced March 2008