

Working out your Local Housing Allowance

if you are a care leaver under 22

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 a care leaver under 22, or live with a care leaver under 22 who is your partner and you have no dependent children, your benefit will be based on the one bedroom Local Housing Allowance rate. By care leaver we mean someone who was formerly in Social Services care under a court order after his or her 16th birthday.

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.

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*

Non-Dependents

If you claim benefit you can only get it for yourself and your family. If you share a property with someone who is over 18 and not a dependent child or your partner, your benefit may be reduced. This is because we have to make a deduction from your benefit to take account of any contribution they are making to the household. This deduction applies even if no actual contribution is made.

Joint tenants or people with severe disabilities

If you are a joint tenant or severely disabled, this might affect the amount of benefit that you get. 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 keep £15.

If you would like more information

Phone us 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, 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 is correct at the time of printing, it is possible that there may be incorrect information or some ideas may be simplified.