

EREWASH



# Benefits Newsletter

October 2009

## Important Changes to Benefit

**The Government brings in new rules from November 2nd this year.**

### Child Benefit

From Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2009 Child Benefit payments will be fully ignored when calculating Housing and Council Tax Benefit.

As a consequence many more people will now be entitled to Benefit.

The change is part of the Governments attempt to reduce Child Poverty. If you currently receive Housing and Council Tax Benefit we will recalculate your claim and you will receive letters telling you how much you will be paid from 2<sup>nd</sup> November. An amended Council Tax Demand will be sent if the amount you need to pay has changed.

### Capital Limits Raised

Also from 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2009 capital up to £10,000 will be ignored for people aged 60 and over. The previous limit was £6,000.

As a consequence many more people will now be entitled to Benefit.

Again if you currently receive Housing and Council Tax Benefit we will recalculate your claim and you will receive letters telling you how much you will be paid from 2<sup>nd</sup> November. An amended Council Tax Demand will be sent if the amount you need to pay is changed.

### Council Tax

If you have outstanding Council Tax, and have a problem paying, please contact us on 0115 9071000 or e-mail [counciltax@erewash.gov.uk](mailto:counciltax@erewash.gov.uk).

It is easier for us to help you if you contact us before the situation is in the recovery process.

# Telephone Applications

You are now able to complete an application for Benefit over the phone.

When you call, our staff will take your details and make an appointment for a suitable time to call you back. They will also tell you what information you will need at hand when they call back.

Your details will be entered directly onto your application form and at the end of the call you will be advised if you qualify for Benefit, and if so what evidence you will need to supply to complete your application.

## Open Erewash

You will soon be able to access your Benefit claim and Council Tax account from your computer via secure access from our website.

If you would like to take advantage of this, please contact us on 0115 9071023 or e-mail [controlteam@erewash.gov.uk](mailto:controlteam@erewash.gov.uk)

## Changes of Circumstances

Please remember it is your duty to inform this office immediately of any changes in the circumstances of yourself or your family which may affect your entitlement to benefit.

A change of circumstances can only be backdated in your favour for one calendar month, however if the change results in an overpayment of benefit, there is no time limit. If you knowingly give us false information, the money will be reclaimed and you may be prosecuted.

If you need any advice please call:

Benefits Office on 0115 9071010



e-mail [benefits@erewash.gov.uk](mailto:benefits@erewash.gov.uk)

