

# Benefits Guide

When somebody decides to leave an abusive relationship it can be daunting enough on its own, but when there are financial concerns things may appear even harder.

It is always essential that advice is sought from the benefit section at Rochford District Council.

## Housing Benefit

If a person is worried that they wouldn't be able to afford to pay rent on a property on their own, then they may be eligible for housing benefit if they are a:

- Council tenant
- Housing association tenant
- Privately rented tenant
- Hostel resident
- Bed and breakfast/hotel resident

Housing benefit should be paid at one home only at any one time. However victims of domestic abuse can be classed as an exception.

If a claimant has left the property where housing benefit is paid, due to fear of violence, benefit can be paid on both the former home and the temporary home providing that the benefits officer finds it reasonable.

In these circumstances payment can only be made to an absolute limit of 52 weeks.

## Council Tax Benefit

An application can be made to the housing benefit section if the claimant is:

- On a low income
- Paying council tax

## Income Support

An application can be made if the claimant is

- Not working on average more than 16 hours per week.
- Aged 16 years or over
- On a low income

## Job Seekers Allowance

An application can be made if the claimant is :

- Not working, or working on an average less than 16 hours per week
- Under pensionable age

## **Child Support Maintenance**

An application can be made:

To help with the cost of bringing up a child, especially if one of the parents is a non residential parent and Claiming income support or income based job seekers allowance.

## **Child Benefit**

An application can be made if the client is bringing up a child or children. Benefit is paid for each child.

For more information about benefits you can look on Rochford District Council's website:

Council tax and benefits section

**<http://www.rochford.gov.uk/>**



If you would like this information in large print, Braille or another language please contact 01702 546366 Ext 3517



**Rochford District Council**  
Council Offices South Street  
Rochford Essex SS4 1BW  
Telephone: 01702 546366  
Facsimile: 01702 545737  
Website: <http://www.rochford.gov.uk>

Domestic Abuse Reduction Officer,  
Community Safety Team  
**01702 546366 Ext 3517**  
**07920 264610**