Universal Credit

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This workshop:

• What is the full service?
• Plans for rollout
• Problems and practicalities
Introduction

UC began to be introduced in pathfinder areas in 2013 and is expected to be in place for all new claimants nationally in 2017. It will replace:

• Income Support
• Income-based JSA
• Income-related ESA
• Housing Benefit
• Working Tax Credit
• Child Tax Credit
What is full service?

- No gateway
- Digital – online claims, online accounts,
- New claims only at this stage – “natural migration” possible in some cases
Rollout

**Present – September 2018**

- Full service rollout for new claimants nationwide (schedule for individual postcode areas)
- replaces live service (gateway)

**July 2019 – March 2022**

- “managed” migration of existing claimants
- Transitional protection for migrated cases only
Problems and practicalities

The lobster pot

• Once under UC rules no return to legacy benefit
• Live service (gateway) – need to satisfy UC conditions to requalify it UC claim comes to an end
• Full service – no gateway therefore only condition is that you reside in a full service area.
‘Natural migration’

- Possibly following change in circumstance resulting in a new claim
  - Failing WCA
  - JSA claimant falls sick or becomes a carer
  - Birth of first child and not previously claimed Tax Credits

- No transitional protection
ESA pending an appeal

Positives

• No migration where no new claim made
• ESA pending appeal doesn’t require new claim

Negatives

• DWP say UC replaces ESA
• If new claim for JSA made during MR stage then in the lobster pot
Contributory ESA

- DWP are saying it's not possible to claim CESA under UC rules

- DWP may only allow CESA claim via a UC claim
Claims and payment

- Online claim and online maintenance via UC account
- Communication for DWP done via UC account online
- Assessed and paid monthly and includes housing costs
- Not normally be paid for less than a period of a month
- The monthly assessment period - change of circumstance leading to increased or reduced entitlement will apply to the whole month in which the change takes place.
- No entitlement for first 7 days, in most cases, then a gap between end of period and payment of 7 days: so most people wait 1 month + 14 days for payment
‘In work conditionality’

• Claimants working part-time or in low paid employment will be subject to ‘in work conditionality’

• Expectation to increase earnings and/or increase hours worked
Sanctions

- UC claimants subject to conditionality and sanctions
- Sanction of up to £317.82 per month for up to 3 years
- Housing costs still paid during sanction period
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