

Welfare Reform Forum

East Event (Edinburgh)

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Topics for Today

- SHN Updates (SHN)
- Universal Credit Implementation (DWP)
- The Impact on Disabled People (Inclusion Scotland)
- The Impact on Children & Families (CPAG)
- Welfare Reform Updates (SFHA)
- Open Forum Discussion

SHN Updates

- SHN Re-brand
- Testing & Trialling
- SHAW information & contact on SHN website
- Jobcentre “Open Days”
- Welfare Reform Indicators – 2nd Quarter Data collection
- “Creating a Fairer Scotland: Social Security Stocktake Paper”

Creating a Fairer Scotland: Social Security Stocktake Paper

- **Housing Element of UC**
 - Power to vary under-occupancy, LHA rate, eligible rent & non-dependent deductions
 - “Landlords have highlighted the negative impact on levels of arrears...”
 - SG “remains strongly opposed” to BT and will use powers to vary the housing element of UC to effectively abolish BT
- **Discretionary Housing Payments**
 - Responsibility for all DHP funding & guidance to LAs
 - Plan to work closely with stakeholders on proposals using powers in way that is cost effective, sustainable and supports those most in need.

Creating a Fairer Scotland: Social Security Stocktake Paper

- Universal Credit Flexibilities
 - UC claimants should be given choice to have their payments made twice a month rather than once a month
 - “We have also decided that payment of the housing element should usually be made direct to landlords, for all new UC claims, where the claimant is renting from a social landlord.”
 - Aim is to build the flexibilities into the new digital system

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/10/3498/0>