UNIVERSAL CREDIT

What to ask.

Deciding if the person should claim Universal Credit (UC) or not?

* Are you moving within Hammersmith and Fulham or are LBHF already paying your housing benefit? *Your Housing Benefit claim should continue.*
* Do you have more than three children? *You should claim ‘legacy’ benefits i.e. not UC.*
* Are you in supported accommodation? *Housing Benefit should pay your housing costs, you may need to claim UC for earnings replacement benefits.*
* Are you or your partner pension credit age? *You should claim legacy benefits*
* Do you receive child tax credit and have started working? *You can expand your existing tax credit to include working tax credit and do not need to claim UC*
* Do you receive child tax credit and have recently started working? *You can expand your existing tax credit to include working tax credit and do not need to claim UC*
* Are you challenging an Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) decision that you’re fit for work? *You do not need to claim UC and may be worse off if you do, but you may need some advice on this – see the Factsheet* ‘My ESA has stopped’.

Making sure UC is correct

* If you need to apply for Universal Credit, make sure you tell Council Tax Support separately as this is not included in the Universal Credit payment.
* If you claimed Universal Credit because you moved into the area, did you receive ESA before? Your ESA element should be included in your UC claim.
* Do you pay rent, even if it is covered by housing benefit? Make sure you told UC about this. This is to ensure your housing costs are recognised.