

This Council notes with concern:

1. That the Westminster Government's Universal Credit scheme is causing a social emergency;
2. That the rollout of Universal Credit outside of Wales has caused serious financial difficulties for thousands of claimants;
3. The account of Flintshire Citizens' Advice Bureau outlining their experience of assisting Universal Credit claimants since April 2017, which concludes that:
 - a. People are waiting up to 12 weeks for their first payment without any income;
 - b. The Universal Credit system is too complicated;
 - c. People are not getting help when the system fails them;
4. That accessing Universal Credit is dependent on
 - a. Recipients having a persona bank account;
 - b. Access to internet;
5. Under Universal Credit, housing costs will be paid to the claimant and not the landlord
6. Universal Credit will be paid 5 weeks in arrears;
7. Universal Credit will be paid per household not per individual;
8. Universal Credit will be rolled out to the whole of Denbighshire by April 2018.

This Council also notes:

1. The difficulty in accessing the internet for many residents across Denbighshire;
2. The closure of many community banks across Denbighshire;
3. The cut in the block grant funds received by Denbighshire from the Welsh Government which will put pressure on services which are not ring fenced, such as bus services and libraries;
4. The relatively large housing stock that Denbighshire County Council has means that the Council's housing income could be impacted;
5. DCC's Homelessness Strategy Report which has concerns about increasing homelessness in the County;

The Council further notes:

1. That the Scotland Act (2016) gave the Scottish Government powers to vary how Universal Credit is paid in Scotland, sometimes referred to as "The Scottish Flexibilities".
2. That the Scottish Flexibilities mean that people living in Scotland making a new Universal Credit claim, in full service areas have a choice to:
 - a. Be paid monthly or twice monthly
 - b. Have the relevant housing costs in the Universal Credit award paid to themselves or to their landlord.

This Council calls:

1. On the UK Government to pause the roll-out of Universal Credit
2. On Welsh Government to demand devolution powers to vary how Universal Credit is paid in Wales.