

Claiming Discretionary Housing Payments

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council has a limited amount of money that can be used to help residents who have a shortfall between the amount of Housing Benefit or Universal Credit they receive and the amount of rent they have to pay.

The scheme is not part of the benefit system and all awards are made at the authority's discretion. The authority will look at your circumstances to see whether you are eligible for a DHP. They will decide whether to give you a DHP, how much you will be paid and for how long you will receive the payment.

Who can claim a Discretionary Housing Payment?

Anyone who needs more help with housing costs and is currently claiming:

- Housing Benefit or
- An award of Universal Credit including housing costs* towards a rental liability
**please note – if you are claiming Universal Credit and the housing costs element is paid direct to your landlord please contact the Benefits Team for more information*

The Government has given councils funding to give DHPs to people who have been impacted by welfare reforms including:

- The Benefit Cap
- Removal of the spare room subsidy in the social sector
- Changes to Local Housing Allowance rates, including the 4 year freeze

DHP payments are normally only awarded for a limited period and cannot be relied upon to solve long term housing difficulties.

It is important to give us as much information as possible in support of your application.

How can a payment be used?

You may be given a DHP to cover housing costs such as:

- A rent shortfall for example as a result of welfare reforms – for further information visit www.gov.uk/housing-benefit
- Rent in advance if you need to move home

How do I make a claim?

You can contact the Benefits Team at Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council on 024 76376514 or email benefits.section@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

