

CREATE:

Achieving the Community Allowance

To Update and Simplify the Benefits System

Since its inception in 1948 the benefits system has become outdated, as the world has changed to such a great extent since then.



The problems with the benefits system include:

- Filled with traps the [benefits trap](#) is well documented with housing costs being one of the highest hurdles.
- Too complex unless you have a professionally trained adviser to help you navigate and work the system, then it is likely you will not [claim all that you are entitled](#) to - in 2005-06 between 5.7 billion and 9.3 billion of benefits went unclaimed
- Changed too often constant tinkering to changing the benefit rules has lead to a very complex and contradictory system.
- Outdated it doesn't respond to sessional, part time and temporary work, only a 35 hour week.
- Mean why are so many benefits paid out below the poverty line?
- Administratively burdensome for the individual and the staff. Application forms are unnecessarily long and complicated (Job Seekers Allowance is 44 pages).

The Community Allowance would enable the benefits system to be simplified:

- The participant's benefits status would be frozen and protected for a year, enabling the participant to be stress free about a minimum level of income so they can concentrate on gaining skills, knowledge and experience through work to help them to progress off benefits
- Job Centre Plus would not have to deal with unnecessary paperwork while participants are on the Community Allowance, eradicating the work that currently exists for Job Centre Plus staff when a claimant declares part time, short term or sessional work
- Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit would also be protected for a year, eradicating the work that currently exists for Local Authority staff when a claimant declares part time, short term or sessional work