

Appendix B

The principals of the scheme

The working age rules are set locally subject to nationally prescribed requirements. Pensionable age rules are set by Government.

The following refers to working age claimants.

The Scheme supports families by:

- Disregarding Child Benefit received;
- Disregarding Maintenance received for a child;
- Taking into account child care costs as an expense of up to £175 for one child and up to £300 for two or more children per week; and
- Awarding higher Applicable Amount allowing families to have higher incomes and still qualify for support.

The Scheme supports those on Disability Benefits by:

- Disregarding Disability Living Allowance (or any equivalent allowance); and
- Awarding a higher Applicable Amount allowing those on certain disability benefits to have higher incomes and still qualify for support.

The Scheme supports people in work by:

- Applying a wage disregard of £5.00 for single claimants, £10.00 for couples and £20.00 for certain disabled claimants or carers or those in special occupations, and £25.00 for lone parents; and
- Applying an additional wage disregard of £17.10 where a family premium or a disabled premium is payable and the claimant is employed for 16 hours or more per week. Couples or single people over 25 qualify for this when working 30 hours or more where these premiums are not applied; and
- Awarding additional support for the first four weeks of moving into work, in certain circumstances.

The Scheme supports people who are paid for caring responsibilities by:

- Awarding a higher Applicable Amount for those claiming Carers Allowance allowing them to have higher incomes and still qualify for support

The Scheme encourages savings by:

- Allowing claimants to have savings of up to £16,000 and still qualify for help, with the first £6,000 disregarded. A tariff income of £1.00

for every £250.00 (or part thereof) of savings over £6,000 is applied to the working age claimant's income.

The Scheme has additional benefits of:

- Disregarding Guardians Allowance, Adoption Allowance, Foster Allowance, War Disablement Pension, War Widows Pension and War Widowers Pension, as well as Charitable and Voluntary payments received; and
- Disregarding £15.00 from Widowed Parents Allowance, and Maintenance received by a claimant or their partner.

The Scheme applies a 20% withdrawal of support rate when the claimant's income rises above the Applicable Amount. This means that for every £1.00 of income above the Applicable Amount £0.20 will be reduced from weekly Council Tax Support.

Note:

The Applicable Amount is the level of income under which a claimant would receive maximum Council Tax Benefit entitlement.