



18 February 2013

SCH to explain welfare reform

Solihull Community Housing (SCH) has responded to the forthcoming changes to the benefits system by creating its own welfare reform team.

The team is working across the borough explaining the new legislation to people and the possible impact it could have on their income.

SCH looks after social housing for more than 10,000 homes across Solihull and the changes are likely to have a significant impact on a large number of their tenants and leaseholders.

Housing benefit will in future be based on the size of home a person needs. Under the new rules if a person is under-occupying – which means they have more bedrooms than they need – they could lose some of their housing benefit.

The welfare reform team has been staging a series of community forums where local people can learn about the changes.

They have lined up some more drop-in surgeries over the next few weeks:

- * Tuesday 26 February, Solihull Connect Walk In, Touchwood (10am to 4pm)
- * Thursday 28 February, SCH area office, Kingshurst (10am to 3pm)
- * Friday 1 March, SCH payments office, Chelmsley Wood (10am to 4pm).

Welfare Reform Team Manager Carol Eckersley is eager to get the key welfare reform messages across as quickly and effectively as possible.

Carol said: “We have contacted all our tenants that are potentially affected to confirm that the information we hold is correct. We are supporting those people discussing options such as moving to a smaller property or considering taking in a friend or family member to occupy the room, budgeting or seeking work.

“The changes will soon be here and if tenants are affected and have not spoken to a member of the team they need to contact us urgently.”

For more information, email info@solihullcommunityhousing.org.uk or phone 0121 717 1515.

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