Welfare Reform: The Essentials

The many recent and imminent welfare reform changes can make it very confusing for claimants to know what action they should be taking - and confusing for advisers too! This course brings participants up to date with the main changes and enables them to advise their residents on the best ways of avoiding pitfalls and problems, to ensure they are getting all the benefits that they are entitled to.

Outline of Day

9.30am Introductions

9.35am Housing Benefit Changes
   Backdating - the alternatives? Safeguarding the Family Premium
   Benefit Cap – quick review of new rules / limits
   Bedroom Tax - which couples/families can get an extra bedroom due to disability?

10.45am Break

11.00am Two Child Limit
   What’s changed?
   Who does it affect and how?
   Interaction with the Benefit Cap
   Opportunity to escape UC?

12.00noon Changes to Disability Benefits
   ESA - Removal of WRAC
   PIP – recent changes

12.30pm Lunch

1.15pm Universal Credit Review
   What, who, when?
   Waiting days, Advance Payments, Twice Monthly Payments
   Understanding Monthly Assessment Periods - implications
   Keeping a claim going
   Conditionality Problems
   Becoming too sick to work / look for work

2.45pm Break

3.00pm Universal Credit – Going Digital
   Who will have to claim
   Housing Costs for young people
   Key challenges/differences: APAs, explicit consent
   Problem areas

4.00pm Other changes
   Quick Quiz
   Future of HB
   LHA Cap
   Support for Mortgage Interest

4.30pm Close

‘Fab course – covered the changes and gave tips on how to minimise the impact.’
Golden Gates Housing

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