



Sandwell Community Information & Participation Service



GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 21st November 2023
10am for 10.30am start

Presentation from:

Liam Martin,

Team Lead, Income Management to update
everyone about the forthcoming changes to
Universal Credit.

Inside this issue

November General Meeting	1
Universal Credit Changes/Digi- Comm Power Up	2
Digi-Comm/New Staff Member	3
Hateley Cross Big Local	4



Venue:

National Metalforming Centre.
Birmingham Road, West Bromwich B70 6PY

Universal Credit

Universal Credit – what is it?

Universal Credit is a working-age benefit which brings together the following six legacy benefits into one benefit:

- Income based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income based Employment Support Allowance
- Housing Benefit
- Income Support
- Child and Working Tax Credits

Universal Credit provides support to residents with their daily living and housing costs, it can also help pay for childcare costs. Universal Credit can be claimed by residents in work on a low income, residents who are out of work and residents unable to work. Most people have to make their Universal Credit claim online and claimants are paid a single payment monthly in arrears.

For more information on Universal Credit visit:

<https://www.understandinguniversalcredit.gov.uk/>

**Come along and speak directly to Liam
get your questions answered**

What is happening?

The Department for Work and Pensions have announced that most residents living in Sandwell who currently claim a legacy benefit will be required to claim Universal Credit during 2023, 2024 and 2025. Residents will receive a letter called a 'Universal Credit Migration Notice' when it is their time to claim, the letter will explain what residents need to do and by when.

This will affect thousands of residents across the borough and the council wants to support residents to prepare for this change. The council will be holding Universal Credit roadshows in libraries between November and March 2024 outlining what managed migration is and the help that can be offered to residents to support them as they claim Universal Credit. Details of the roadshows can be found by scanning the QR code:



or

[www.sandwell.gov.uk/tenanthandbook/
tenant-handbook/universal-credit-roadshows](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/tenanthandbook/tenant-handbook/universal-credit-roadshows)



Digi-Comm Power Up

The second venue for the Digi-Comm Power up project has been confirmed as Friar Park Millennium Centre, Wednesbury. Train the Trainer commenced on Monday 6th November 2023 and will continue until Monday 29th January 2024.

A total of 10 sessions of training will be delivered, which includes Accessing Local Services (ALS), comprising of creating a MySandwell account, reporting repairs and anti-social behaviour online. This venue has been very popular when recruiting digital champions and participants, wanting to upskill their digital needs, which will contribute to creating long-term sustainability at Friar Park Millennium Centre.



Digi-Comm Unity

Venue 2 for Digi-Comm Unity is well under way at St Clements House, West Bromwich. Click and Chat sessions were completed on Thursday 26th October 2023 and sessions continue with Accessing Local Services delivery until Thursday 16th November 2023.

Venue 3 has also commenced with Train the Trainer at Lancaster House, Oldbury on Tuesday 10th October 2023. The training will also continue to include Accessing Local Services sessions until Tuesday 12th December 2023.

SCIPS New Member of Staff



David Hayward has been appointed to the SCIPS staff team as the new Administrative Assistant.

Some months ago David started volunteering in the office to gain further workplace experience. As David's skills and confidence grew, the opportunity arose for him to apply for the SCIPS vacancy.



David said " I have been a member of my local TRA in the Hamstead area for around 19 months, attending general meetings and AGM's, lending a hand when they put on community based events, and a member of SCIPS since earlier this year. I am extremely pleased to have secured employment with an organisation that supports communities, and thoroughly enjoying my role

Meet the Housing Ombudsman Event 2024

Meet the Housing Ombudsman Event 2024. If you are a Sandwell tenant or leaseholder living in a council or housing association property, find out more about the Housing Ombudsman and how they can help you.

Date and Time: Monday 22nd January 2024 - 1pm - 2pm

Location: Council Chambers, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, B69 3DE

Tickets: Places are limited, please book early to avoid disappointment

To book : <https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/housing/meet-housing-ombudsman-event>

Richard Blakeway, the Housing Ombudsman for England, will be speaking at this event. You will have the chance to ask Richard questions on all aspects of the Housing Ombudsman service. The Housing Ombudsman is a government organisation who can help if you have a complaint that you don't think has been dealt with well by your housing provider, or if you're unhappy with the outcome.

Find out more: www.housing-ombudsman.org.uk



Community Green Grants

Time spent in nature is known to be beneficial to physical and mental wellbeing. It is important that opportunities to be in green spaces is increased, especially in areas with limited access. The WMCA Community Green Grants did fund projects that increase access to green space and increase biodiversity.

Projects in areas of deprivation and green deprivation were prioritised. There's been excellent demand for the funding, which launched in January 2021. We have been successful in funding a large number of very worthy projects across the region. Due to the success of this popular scheme, we are now closed for applications.

Further opportunities for funding of environmental projects will however be coming soon. The WMCA will be launching a new Community Environment Fund (CEF) in October 2023 and we will publicise this widely once it is live. If you wish to register your interest in announcements relating to CEF, for now, please contact communityenvironmentfund@wmca.org.uk and we shall be in touch in due course.

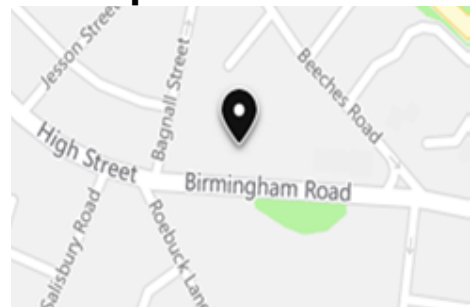


Sandwell Community Information & Participation Service



NMC Venue
37-47 Birmingham Road
West Bromwich
B70 6PY

SatNav postcode - B70 6QE
Facebook - @SandwellCIPS
You Tube - @scipsb70



SCIPS is a registered charity no 1097702.

If you would like to find out more about us visit our website

www.scips.org.uk