

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO HOUSING BENEFIT FROM JANUARY 2012

If you are between 25 & 35 and renting self-contained accommodation from a private landlord, your Local Housing Allowance may reduce from January 2012

Housing Benefit legislation is extending the age group for single people who can only claim a shared room rate to help with their rent (rather than being able to claim for self-contained one bedroom accommodation). This means you may only be entitled to the lower rate of Housing Benefit for a room in shared accommodation if all of the following apply:

- You are a single person
- You are occupying one-bedroom self-contained accommodation rented from a private landlord
- Your Housing Benefit is due to be reviewed from January 2012 onwards
- At the date of the review you will be aged 25 or over but under 35
- You are not covered by any of the exemptions on sharing accommodation such as:
 - * you receive a Severe Disability Premium within your applicable amount
 - * you have a boarder, lodger or non-dependant in your property
 - * you need an overnight carer
 - * you have spent at least 3 months in a homeless hostel
 - * you are an ex-offender who is subject to MAPPA arrangements

If you have any concerns about how this may affect your housing benefit, please visit our website: www.angliarevenues.gov.uk or telephone 01842 756566

Please get in touch with your council's Housing Advice team for assistance with all types of housing issues, including:

- **Affordability of existing or new tenancies following the April 2011 Housing Benefit changes**
- **Finding accommodation**
- **Homelessness**
- **Your rights and responsibilities as a tenant**
- **Social housing**
- **Advice on finding and moving into private rented accommodation**
- **Money advice**
- **Housing advice for single young people**

	<p><u>If you live within the Breckland area:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telephone 01362 656 870 and ask for housing advice • Email: housing.advice@breckland.gov.uk • Or visit the housing pages on our website at www.breckland.gov.uk
	<p><u>If you live within the East Cambridgeshire area:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telephone 01335 665 555 and ask for housing advice • Or visit the housing pages on our website at www.eastcamb.gov.uk
	<p><u>If you live within the Forest Heath:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telephone the housing team direct on 01638 719 345 • Email: housingmail@forest-heath.gov.uk • Or visit the housing pages on our website at www.forest-heath.gov.uk
	<p><u>If you live within the St Edmundsbury area:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telephone the housing team direct on 01284 757 605 • Email: housing.options@stedsb.gov.uk • Or visit the housing pages of our website at www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk

