**BENEFITS CAP**  DWP Department for Work and Pensions

The Benefit Cap is a limit placed on the total amount of benefits a working age household can receive. This means you, your partner and any dependent children that live with you.

**How much will benefits capped in Bridgend be capped at?**

**£384.62** per week for couples and families and **£257.69** per week for single adults. These new limits will apply from 7.11.16 for those already affected by the Benefits Cap but not all households will be affected straight away. If you are affected you will be notified by the Department of Work and Pensions and your Housing Benefits Department to tell you of the new amount of Housing Benefit you will receive and the date it will change.

**Exemptions to the Benefit Cap**

If you, your partner or any dependent children living with you receive any of the following benefits you will not be affected.

* Working tax credit
* Personal Independence Payments
* Attendance Allowance
* War widow or War widowers Pension
* Disability Living Allowance
* Carers Allowance
* Guardians Allowance
* Industrial Injuries Benefit
* Armed Forces Independent Payment
* Armed Forces Compensation Scheme
* War Pensions
* Support Component of Employment and Support Allowance

**What income is taken into account and added together for the Benefit Cap?**

* Housing Benefit
* Universal Credit
* Child Tax Credit
* Income support
* Widowed mothers allowance
* Child Benefit
* Jobseekers Allowance
* Maternity Allowance
* Widows Pension including the age related component
* Incapacity Benefit
* Widowed Parents Allowance
* Bereavement Allowance
* Severe Disablement Allowance
* Employment and Support Allowance (except where the Support Component is paid).

**If the total income is more than the maximum amount allowed your Housing Benefit or Universal Credit will be reduced.**

**What can I do now?**

Finding work could mean that the Benefit Cap will not apply to you if you are able to get Working Tax Credit. You can find out more about this at [www.gov.uk/working-tax-credit](http://www.gov.uk/working-tax-credit).

You can contact Housing Benefits at Bridgend County Borough Council on 01656 643396 or benefits@bridgend.gov.uk to discuss your options.

Contact CAB for free and confidential advice at [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)

If you need help managing your money contact the Money Advice Service for free independent advice on budgeting, saving and dealing with debt at [www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk](http://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk)