

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Care leavers under 22

If you are a care leaver under 22, or live with a care leaver under 22 who is your partner, and have no dependent children your benefit will be based on the one bedroom Local Housing Allowance rate.

By care leaver we mean someone who was in council care after the age of 15. For more information about what we mean by care leavers, please get in touch with us.

Couples

If you are part of a couple and do not live with any dependants, your benefit will be based on the one bedroom Local Housing Allowance rate if you live in:

- a self-contained property
- shared accommodation but have two or more rooms (bedrooms or living rooms) that no-one else can use

If you are part of a couple and do not live with any dependants, your benefit will be based on the Local Housing Allowance shared room rate if you live in shared accommodation.

By couple we mean a man and a woman who are married or are living together as if they are married, or two people of the same sex who are civil partners of each other and are members of the same household.

By a self-contained property we mean one where you have your own room plus your own:

- bathroom
- toilet; and
- kitchen (or facilities to cook with)

For example, this could be a one-bedroom flat.

Bill and Jane are a couple who have no children. They live in a house where they share facilities. They are entitled to one bedroom for themselves. As they share facilities, this means any benefit they are entitled to will be based on the Local Housing Allowance shared room rate.

Gary and Roger are a couple. They live in a self-contained flat. They are entitled to one bedroom for themselves. This means any benefit they are entitled to will be based on the Local Housing Allowance rate for one bedroom.

Aged under 35

If you are aged under 35, are single and do not live with any dependants, you can only get the Local Housing Allowance shared room rate.

Marcus is single. He is aged 33. He is entitled to one bedroom for himself. As he is under 35, he is entitled to the Local Housing Allowance shared room rate.

Aged 35 or over

If you are 35 or over, single and do not live with any dependants, your benefit will be based on the one bedroom Local Housing Allowance rate if you live in:

- a self-contained property
- shared accommodation but have two or more rooms (bedrooms or living rooms) that no-one else can use

If you are 35 or over, single and do not live with any dependants, your benefit will be based on the Local Housing Allowance shared room rate if you live in shared accommodation unless you have two or more rooms (bedrooms or living rooms) that no-one else can use.

By a self-contained property we mean one where you have your own room plus your own:

- bathroom
- toilet, and
- kitchen (or facilities to cook with)

For example, this could be a one-bedroom flat.

Severely disabled

If you are severely disabled, or live with a severely disabled partner, and have no dependent children, your benefit will be based on the one bedroom Local Housing Allowance rate.