

Council Tax Support

Council Tax Benefit has changed. As of 1st April 2013 Council Tax Benefit has been replaced by a new benefit called **Council Tax Support**.

Council Tax Support continues to be managed and run by the Council. But each separate Council will provide Council Tax support according to their individual terms of entitlement. This means that Croydon Council's terms of entitlement are not the same as a neighbouring Council's terms. This factsheet is focusing on Council Tax Support for the Borough of Croydon Council only.

Being previously eligible for Council Tax Benefit does not automatically mean that you will now qualify for the new Council Tax Support with Croydon Council. The only group of people who are guaranteed to not be affected by changes from Council Tax Benefit to the new Council Tax Support are those who are deemed to be a 'Vulnerable Person'.

Am I a Vulnerable Person?

Croydon Council's Council Tax Support Scheme will continue to ensure that those people who are vulnerable will not be affected by the new benefit of Council Tax Support. These people are those who are:-

- Pensioners (people who have reached Pension Credit age).
- Adults receiving Disability Living Allowance.
- People receiving the Personal Independence Payments.
- People in receipt of Employment Support Allowance (including those in the assessment stage of this benefit).
- People receiving Universal Credit with a 'limited capability for work'.
- People in receipt of Income Support.
- Single parents with a child under the age of 5 years.

If you are a Vulnerable Person there will be no changes to your personal Council Tax payments. You will continue to receive the same support you received before 1st April 2013.

What if I am not a Vulnerable Person?

If you do not qualify as a 'Vulnerable People' within the above criteria you will be subjected to increased Council Tax payments. The amount you will be expected to pay will depend on your saving, whether you are working, studying, unemployed and seeking work.

The main changes to Croydon Council Support is that adults of working age (over 16 and under Pension Credit age) who are not working are no longer automatically exempt from making a payment towards Council Tax. Instead, unless they are Vulnerable People' within the above criteria they will be expected to pay at least 15 percent of their Council Tax bill even if they are not in work.

If you have savings from £8,000.00 upwards you will be expected to pay the full Council Tax.

What if I am a Vulnerable Person but someone who I live with is not?

If you do qualify as a 'Vulnerable Person' as shown in the above criteria but someone who lives with you is not vulnerable according to the above criteria they may be expected to make a payment towards Council Tax.

This will be subject to their individual circumstances (i.e. are they working, on job seekers allowance or studying).

The person who lives with you and is not a 'Vulnerable Person' will be expected to pay Council Tax. If they do not pay the Council Tax bill you could become responsible for their Council Tax bill. This may happen if either:-

- You are the main occupier of the property or
- You are the main tax payer at the property or
- You hold a joint tenancy with the person who lives with you.

What if I have a Carer?

If your disability is such that you require a full time Carer to live with you, this person may be exempt from Council Tax payments provided they are living in the property of the person they care for and provided the person they look after is not their partner, their spouse or their child.

Can I appeal a decision not to grant me Council Tax Support?

There are grounds for appeal if you think a decision maker has made an incorrect decision. This will depend on the reasons for the decision. In the event that a decision has not been made in your favour: -

The Mind in Croydon Welfare Benefits Advice Line 0208 763 2037

Our Advice Line is answered on Tuesday 10am – 1pm and Thursday 2pm – 5pm.

You can leave a message.

