

Changes to Housing Benefit and Fostering



Are you a tenant that will be affected by the changes to housing benefit?

From 1st April 2013 if you rent a council or housing association home and you have one or more 'spare' bedrooms, your housing benefit may be reduced. If you are in this position then you could think about using your spare room to foster. Foster children are not counted as part of your household for housing benefit purposes; however, you can ask the Council's Benefit Service for a Discretionary Housing Payment to help pay all or part of the reduction in your benefit. The government has provided extra Discretionary Housing Payment funding to help with the housing costs of foster parents. The Benefits Service will look at your income and circumstances when deciding if you need extra help with your housing costs.

Fostering is caring for a child or young person in your home when they are unable to stay with their own families.

There are many reasons to foster with Ealing Council, we provide excellent support and all the training you will need, as well as paying you a competitive allowance.

To find out more or for an informal chat, call us on Freephone **0800 731 6550** or email **fosteradopt@ealing.gov.uk**

**BE THERE.
BE AN EALING FOSTER CARER.**