

Supported Accommodation

Supported Accommodation is accommodation where residents are provided with care, support or supervision to help them live as independently as possible. It includes short-term supported accommodation for those in crisis, such as hostels and refuges, long-term supported housing for people with ongoing disabilities and sheltered accommodation/extra care housing mainly for older people (usually over 55s).

Housing costs support for those living in Supported Accommodation is not available in Universal Credit. Universal Credit claimants living in Supported Accommodation must claim Housing Benefit from their local authority, in order to receive housing costs support.

For Universal Credit purposes, claimants will be treated as not liable to pay rent when living in Supported Accommodation.

The local authority Housing Benefit team will decide whether the accommodation a claimant occupies is Supported Accommodation and deals with any disputes regarding their decision.

If the local authority determines that the accommodation is not classified as Supported Accommodation and Housing Benefit is not payable, housing costs are available in Universal Credit. In such circumstances the claimant must re-declare housing as either 'I rent from a council or housing association' or 'I rent from a private landlord'. This usually occurs if insufficient care, support or supervision is provided to or needed by the claimant.

Housing costs support should not be in payment by both Universal Credit and Housing Benefit for the same property. If you believe this may be the case, please check with the local authority Housing Benefit team.

However, there are circumstances where housing costs support in both Universal Credit and Housing Benefit is in payment for two different addresses. For further information, see Paying for two homes.