

### **Warning!!! Disability Living Allowance**

Disability Living Allowance have recently changed the dates they would use when deciding a DLA renewal claim. What previously happened was if you were entitled to a higher rate than what was being paid they would increase your money from the date they received the form, but if you were entitled to a lower rate this would not be changed until the date your old DLA award ended. NOW the new rate will be changed from the date the renewal form is received by DLA whether this is an increase or decrease. If you require any further advise please contact Tracy Doran, Money Adviser, Forth Housing 01786 446066.

### **Child Maintenance**

As from 12th April 2010, child maintenance will no longer be treated as income for income related benefit purposes. This means for those on income support, jobseekers allowance (income based) or employment support allowance (income based) who formerly were only allowed a £20 disregard and then any child maintenance above this level was deducted from their benefit entitlement, their benefits should increase. For those in receipt of child maintenance above £84.30 per week who were unable to claim benefits, you may now be eligible. For further information on this change, please contact Tracy Doran, Money Adviser, Forth Housing Association on 01786 446066

### **Attention - Carer's Allowance**

The government has announced that as from April 2010 the earnings limit for those in receipt of carer's allowance will be increased to £100. So you could still earn £100 per week from employment and still claim Carer's Allowance if you fulfil the other criteria. If you require any further information please contact Tracy Doran, Money Adviser, Forth Housing on 01786 446066.

### **60 years old or over**

As from 2nd November 2009 the government have announced that the pension credit threshold will increase to £10,000. This means that previously for those who had capital (ie savings, stocks/shares) over £6,000, the pension service would have reduced your entitlement by £1 for every £500 or part thereof above this level. For those on guaranteed pension credit, who have capital above £6,000, you should receive additional monies in your payments from pension service in November.

Winter fuel payments have been increased 60-79 years old will receive £250 single/couple, 80 years and over will receive £400 single/couple.