

## **The law has changed**

From the 2 July 2012, changes in the law mean we can now share information collected as part of your Housing Benefit or Council Tax Reduction applications with other departments in the Council, other Local Authorities the Department for Work and Pensions and, in some circumstances, your landlord and other organisations.

## **How information about you will be used.**

The information we hold, including details of any social security benefits you may get, can only be shared for the following reasons:

- ✓ ***To help with an application for another council service*** - If you apply for one or more of the following;
  - A Blue badge
  - A Disabled Facilities Grant
  - A Discretionary Housing Payment
  - Help with non-statutory assistance (better known as supporting people services).
  - Residential care
  - Domiciliary care - such as day care, home helps and meals.

The information held by the council as part of your Housing Benefit or Council Tax Reduction application can be shared with and used by other council services to help decide whether you qualify for help and how much, if anything, you should pay.

- ✓ ***To help identify and support people who are at risk of becoming homeless.-***
- ✓ ***To help identify families who may benefit from the Troubled Families Programme.***
- ✓ ***To help people living in a Council (Hackney Homes) or Housing Association property and who will be affected by the Benefit Cap and/or Under Occupation in the Social sector***– By telling another part of the Council or your landlord, they will be able to advise you what you should do next and provide you with any assistance they can.

We take appropriate measures to ensure that any personal data are kept secure and are kept for only so long as is necessary for the purpose for which they are used.

You are entitled to ask for a copy of any personal data that we hold about you (for which we will charge a small fee) and to have inaccuracies in your personal data corrected.

We shall not pass your personal data to any third party unless the law allows.

**For further information on how your information is used please contact: [benefits@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:benefits@hackney.gov.uk). For more information on how we maintain security of your information please contact: [InformationManagement@Hackney.gov.uk](mailto:InformationManagement@Hackney.gov.uk).**