Local Housing Allowance (LHA): Changes from April 2011 for people who claim with carers
London Borough of Merton Housing Benefit
October 2010
Do I have to be getting Housing Benefit under the Local Housing Allowance arrangements to get the allowance for another bedroom for an overnight carer?

No. This change applies to all tenants who meet the qualifying conditions and live in privately rented accommodation no matter how their Housing Benefit is worked out.

I think I will be due an increase in my Housing Benefit because I have a carer who stays overnight – who should I tell?

Make sure that we know you have an overnight carer so that we can look at your Housing Benefit entitlement again. You must already have an extra bedroom in your home available for the carer to use before you get this help. If you are already getting Housing Benefit and meet the conditions for this extra help you will be entitled to it from the date the new LHA rules take effect.

What about extra rooms for other circumstances such as disabled children, couples that cannot share a room or where extra space is needed for medical equipment?

The change only applies where the person making the Housing Benefit claim, or their partner, needs overnight care.

Further information

- If you want to know more about the changes and how they affect you:
  - phone us: on 020 8274 4903; or
  - visit us at: Merton Link, ground floor Civic Centre, London Road, Morden, SM4 5DX; or
  - email us at Housing.Benefits@merton.gov.uk