Press releases

Council tax single person discount amnesty for residents

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Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is urging residents to check if they’re entitled to claim single person discount on their council tax bill.

A short amnesty is running until Sunday 3 December, when claimants are encouraged to tell the council about any changes in their circumstances and to cancel their 25 per cent discount without any further repercussions if they are no longer eligible.

For example, a single parent household where children have reached 18 but are still living at home, if you have rented out a spare room to a lodger, or you have children who have come to live in the parental home after living away.

The council is set to step up efforts to identify fraudulent claims using intelligent data matching as part of the National Fraud Initiative run by the Cabinet Office, but has introduced the amnesty period before the review begins.

Claimants who are not entitled to receive single person discount and fail to declare any personal changes by 3 December will face further action. This will include backdating the cancellation of the discount as far as evidence will allow and, in certain cases, the council will also impose a civil penalty which means an additional £70 on the claimant’s council tax bill.

Cabinet Member for Finance, Service Delivery and Improvement Cllr Robert Tate said: “The majority of households claiming single person discount on their council tax are eligible to do so.

“However, if you are getting a single person discount and are not entitled to it, tell us and we’ll simply amend your account and take it no further. If you don’t, then further action may be taken against you.

“Please act now and let the council know of any change in your circumstances before Sunday 3 December.”

Contact the council tax team by sending an email with the subject ‘SPD Amnesty’ to localtax@basingstoke.gov.uk or by calling 01256 844844.