Welcome to the 4th edition

From April 2013 Disability Living Allowance for claimants aged 16 to 64 will be replaced with Personal Independence Payments.

What is Disability Living Allowance?

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) is a non means tested state benefit awarded to disabled people who need help getting around or looking after themselves. It is made up of two components one for mobility and one for care. DLA is often granted in long term or indefinite awards.

The amount of DLA payment and access to additional services or benefits for individuals are determined by the level of their award. There are three levels of award High, Medium and Low.

What are Personal Independence Payments?

Similar to DLA Personal Independence Payments (PIP) will be a non-means-tested benefit available to people with disabilities whether they are in or out of work.

PIP will have a mobility and a daily living (rather than care) parts. Each part will have two rates of payments: standard and enhanced.

Applications for PIP will be scored against new entitlement criteria. The scoring will be based on how a person's daily life is affected by the impact of their disability or health condition, and the extent to which they are able to live independently and participate in society.

PIP will usually be awarded up to 2 years with reassessment at any time an individual's needs change.

Why is PIP being introduced?

The Government felt a need for disability benefits to better reflect disabled peoples' needs and extra costs they might incur in today's society.

The Government states PIP will be easier to understand, more efficient and designed to help towards some of the extra costs arising from ill health or disability. The Government's intention is for PIP to be targeted at supporting those in most need to remain independent and be treated as an individual.
When will PIP be introduced?

In April 2013 PIP will be piloted for new claims in the North of England. From June 2013 new claims for PIP will be taken from all parts of the country.

From October 2013 individuals on DLA reporting a change in condition or due renewal of award will be reassessed under PIP. A few thousand other cases will be reassessed using random national selection.

Between January 2014 and April 2016 all individuals on DLA will be contacted to apply for assessment under PIP as part of rolling schedule.

How will claimants access PIP?

To be eligible for PIP individuals need to have had a health condition or disability for three months, and which is expected to last for a further nine months. Individuals with terminal illness do not have to satisfy these criteria and are eligible immediately.

There is no automatic transfer from DLA to PIP; individuals currently in receipt of DLA will be invited to make a claim and be assessed for PIP. The majority of PIP claims will require the individual to attend a face to face assessment.

Will this change affect other benefit or services?

It is intended that existing ‘gateway’ or ‘passporting’ arrangements under DLA will be maintained wherever possible for those eligible for PIP; for example, Blue Badge, Carer’s Allowance and Motability schemes, as well as public transport concessions and introduction of the new Universal Credit benefit system.

How are we assisting residents?

We are working closely with third sector organisations including CAB and DIAL to help build their capacity to assist residents applying for PIP.

Relevant and timely information on PIP will be made available to residents through www.solihull.gov.uk/moneycounts

Contact us

If you would like any further information or would like to be added to our circulation list for future welfare reform newsletters please email welfare-reform@solihull.gov.uk