



Department
for Work &
Pensions

How we want to make the benefits system better

The Health and Disability Green Paper



Who we are and what this booklet is about



Department
for Work &
Pensions

We are the **Department for Work and Pensions** (called **DWP** for short).



We are part of the UK **Government**. The **Government** is in charge of running the country.



We want to make the **benefits system** better for disabled people and people with **health conditions**.



The **benefits system** means the way different types of benefits are managed and paid.



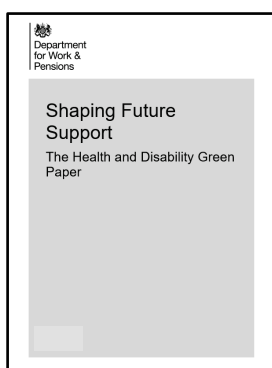
Health conditions are long-term health problems that can't be cured but can be looked after with medicines and treatments.



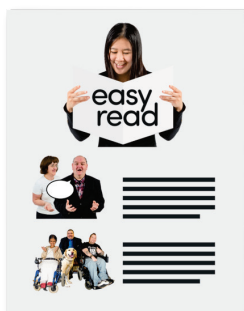
We have written a **Green Paper** about our ideas and plans to make the benefits system better for disabled people and people with health conditions.



A **Green Paper** is a document we write about a subject and ask you to read and tell us what you think.



Our Green Paper is called **Shaping Future Support: The Health and Disability Green Paper.**



This booklet is a **summary** Easy Read version of our Green Paper. A **summary** is a shorter version.



We have split our summary version into 6 Easy Read booklets.

This booklet is called

How we want to make the benefits system better

The other booklets are called

Chapter 1

Giving people the right support

Chapter 2

Making employment support better

Chapter 3

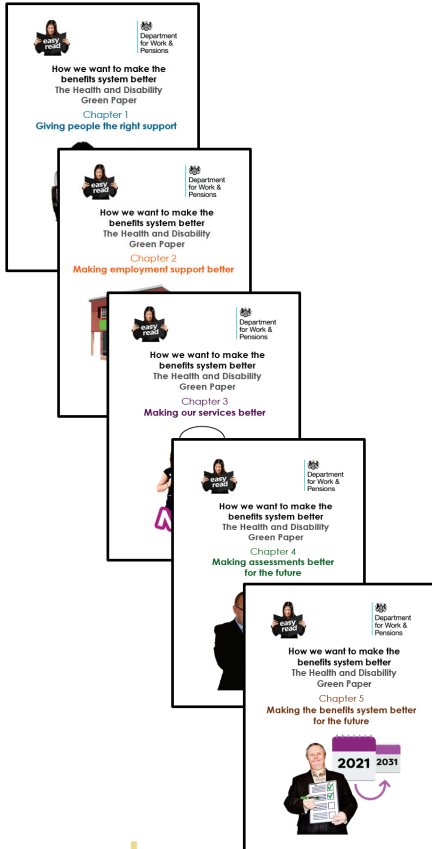
Making our services better

Chapter 4

Making assessments better for the future

Chapter 5

Making the benefits system better for the future



We want you to tell us what you think about our Green Paper.

We have written some questions for you to answer. The questions are in the coloured pages at the back of each chapter booklet.

What you tell us is important. It helps us make good decisions.

The types of benefits our Green Paper are about



Our Green Paper is about the 2 main types of health and disability benefit for disabled people and people with health conditions who are between 16 and 64 years old.



1. Benefits for people who have a disability or a health condition that affects them being able to work and who are unemployed or get a low income.



Unemployed means you don't have a job. **Employed** means you do have a job. **Income** means how much you earn from a job.



These benefits are

Universal Credit
(called **UC** for short).

Employment Support Allowance
(called **ESA** for short).



2. Benefits for disabled people and people with health conditions to help with extra costs.



These benefits are paid to people who have jobs and to people who are unemployed or get a low income.



These benefits help support **Independent Living**.



Independent Living is when disabled people and people with health conditions have the same chances and choices in life as everyone else.



These benefits are

Personal Independence Payment
(called **PIP** for short).

Disability Living Allowance
(called **DLA** for short).



Other types of support our Green Paper is about

- employment support for people who get UC and ESA.
- **mobility** support for people who get higher-rate PIP and DLA mobility payments. This is given by the **Motability** scheme.
- support for people who want to apply for UC. This is given by the **Help to Claim** service.

Mobility means being able to move around and make journeys.

How we wrote our Green Paper



We talked to disabled people and people with health conditions before we wrote our Green Paper.

We

- had Green Paper events.
- did **research**. **Research** is work done to find out new information about a subject.
- talked to thousands of people who get health and disability benefits.



Reasons why change is needed

1 in 5



For people who are 16 to 64 years old in the UK

- 1 person in every 5 people is disabled.
- 1 person in every 3 people has a long-term health condition.



1 in 3

Up 20%

2013



2019

The amount of disabled people who are 16 to 64 years old in the UK has gone up by 20% from 2013 to 2019.

43%



43% of people who are poor live in a family where someone is disabled.



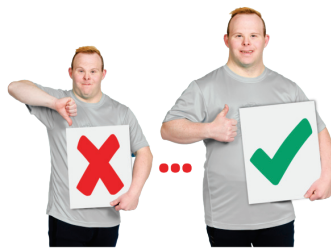
It can be more difficult for disabled people to start a job, stay in a job and do well in a job than it is for non-disabled people.



Disabled people might have other difficulties that make it hard for them to live full and independent lives.



Disabled people and people with health conditions might have to spend extra money on things like clothing, travel, heating and help around the home.



The **disability employment gap** is getting smaller but it is still more than we want it to be.



The **disability employment gap** is the difference between the number of non-disabled people and disabled people who have a job.



At the moment about 29% more non-disabled people have jobs than disabled people.

Our 3 main ideas for change



Our 3 main ideas for change are

1. Independent Living

We want to support disabled people and people with health conditions to live full and independent lives.

We want disabled people and people with health conditions to

- get the right amount of benefits.
- be able to make their own choices and decisions.
- have equal **access** to services.
- have the right support to get good healthcare and treatments.
- enjoy life in the same way as other people.



Access to services means you know about services and are able to use them.



2. Employment

We want to make it easier for disabled people and people with health conditions to start jobs, stay in jobs and do well in jobs.

We want

- disabled people and people with health conditions to get better employment support that is made for them.
- to work with employers to make better employment chances for disabled people and people with health conditions.



3. Our services

We want to make our services better for disabled people and people with health conditions.

We want to

- listen, learn and get better at what we do.
- make our services accessible and easy to use.
- make our services better so people trust us.
- find new ways to support people who need help the most.



How we spend our money



We want to make sure we spend our money in the best way to support disabled people and people with health conditions.



We want disabled people and people with health conditions to be able to work and live full and independent lives.

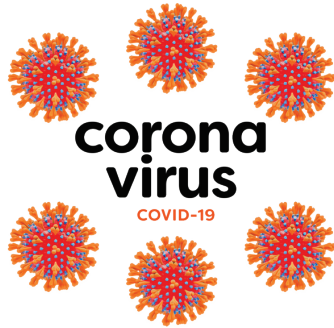


Our Green Paper will help us find out if we spend our money in a good way.

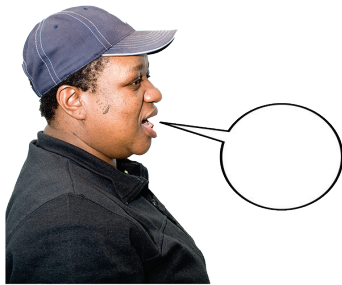


It will help us make sure the benefits system works well and is strong for the future.

The future



We want to make the benefits system better for everyone as we come out of the coronavirus pandemic.



We want our Green Paper to let disabled people and people with health conditions have their say about the benefits system.



We know it is important to talk to people who will be affected by our decisions.



We will carry on talking to disabled people and people with health conditions to help us make good decisions for the future.

What you need to do next



Read Chapters 1 to 5 about our Green Paper and answer the questions in the coloured pages at the back of each booklet.



Find out more on our website
www.gov.uk/government/consultations/shaping-future-support-the-health-and-disability-green-paper



If you have any questions, or if you want to tell us what you think

send an email to this address
healthanddisability.consultation@dwp.gov.uk



write to this address
Health and Disability Green Paper
Department for Work and Pensions
Caxton House
Tothill Street
London SW1H 9NA