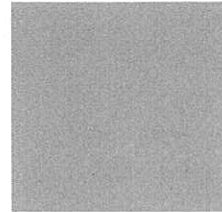


Rec'd 31.1.11



DLA Reform Team  
Consultation

With reference to your consultation document, my comments are directed at  
p15 Chapter 2 The new benefit: our proposals  
21. Payment will stop if the individual is in hospital or a care home

The assumption behind the proposal to remove the mobility component of DLA from those living in residential care is wrong.

It is based on the belief that people living in residential care situations have all of their needs provided for by the package of support bought by the local authority (in a similar way to hospital patients) and do not therefore need any additional money other than a Personal Expense Allowance to cover things like buying toiletries.

In reality an individual's package of support does not provide for **all** aspects of an individual's life. It only funds basic care.

Mobility allowance does not result in double funding as the local authority funding does not cover transport for social needs or visiting family and friends.

As a result, removing the mobility component of DLA will significantly restrict the ability of those in residential care to play an active role in their local community, be independent and maintain relationships with family and friends.

Activities that will be threatened by the removal of the DLA Mobility component include access to work and volunteering, access to friends and family, the ability to maintain relationships with a partner, access to community activities, access to healthcare services and access to leisure activities such as swimming, shopping and going to the cinema. Limiting people's ability to do these things goes against the concepts of choice and independence.

In the long term, the impact on individuals is likely to result in higher costs to the state, due to consequent effects on disabled people's wellbeing and health, and the increased likelihood of a crisis.

Implementing this proposal will mean one of two things for care home residents. Those affected will either have a diminished quality of life with restricted options available to them, or social services will be forced to make up the difference in funding. In the current climate this is unrealistic. Ultimately, the impact on disabled people will be devastating.

**The proposal to remove the anomaly with respect to hospitals and residential care homes is a nonsense as people in residential care are not patients but residents.**

**I am fully supportive of the document "Don't limit mobility" produced by MENCAP, Carers UK, Leonard Cheshire Disability, MIND and others.**

**I want the Department for Work and Pensions to scrap the proposal to stop the Mobility component for people in residential care in light of the overwhelming evidence and strength of public feeling about this measure.**

