

Question 1

What are the problems or barriers that prevent disabled people participating in society and leading independent, full and active lives?

Rec'd
18/2/11

- 1) Public Transport not being accessible
- 2) In-Accessible buildings
- 3) Employment - lack of access & support
- 4) Help needed to perform daily tasks help to shop, clean and assistance to do daily tasks i.e. Washing and Cooking and dressing

Notes:

The new benefit will continue to have:

- No means test and not taxable; it doesn't matter whether you are in full/part time employment or unable to work
- People will be able to spend the money the way they want to and will not be held to account
- Fast track for terminal illness

Question 2

Is there anything else about DLA that should stay the same?

Review should be carried out but they should be done by professionals

Question 3

What are the main extra costs that disabled people face?

Transport
Laundry - extra needed
Heating - extra needed
Food - convenience food due to tiredness and
~~cleaners~~ - not accessible accom.
Help to cleaners flat and pay for people to do daily tasks

Question 4

The new benefit will have two rates for each component:

- Will having two rates per component make the benefit easier to understand and administer, while ensuring appropriate levels of support?
- What, if any, disadvantages or problems could having two rates per component cause?

..... This will only work if people do not
miss out - Fall through the gaps.
..... It could make the benefit easier for
people to claim
.....

Notes:

The new payments will only be made after a qualifying period. It is likely that a person would have had to have a condition for 6 months before becoming eligible for an assessment and the condition would be expected to last for a further 6 months (so 12 months in total).

The consultation is looking at the difficulties some people have with assessments when they have a fluctuating conditions that can worsen at times.

People with terminal illnesses will still be fast tracked through the assessment process and may in some cases still be automatically entitled to claim.

Currently, DLA is paid due to the condition or impairment and not based on how it might affect a person. The reforms will amend this to ensure the assessment takes into account the impact the condition has on an individual.

Question 5

Should some health conditions or impairments mean an automatic entitlement to the benefit, or should all claims be based on the needs and circumstances of the individual applying?

..... Yes as some conditions only get worse
or stay the same they will not improve
People should not be penalized for
living a full and active life and working
.....

Notes:

At the moment, if you enter hospital or a care home, the entitlement to the care component stops after 28 days.

The reforms propose that the mobility component should also be discontinued unless a person pays for their own care. It is planned to make this change in 2012.

Question 6

How do we prioritise support to those people least able to live full and active lives? Which activities are most essential for everyday life?

The person needs to be looked at holistically - but reviews should still take place but less often, helping up and being able to participate in all daily activities.

Notes:

The DLA assessment looks at what a person cannot do and not what they could do if given more support. It is a very negative view of a person's life.

Future assessments will be based on a broader, more objective measurement of the impact of a person's health conditions or impairment on everyday activities.

Question 7

How can we best ensure that the new assessment appropriately takes account of variable and fluctuating conditions?

Regular assessments - By taking account of a number of days/weeks - so a general overview can be taken - Not just a good day

Notes:

At the moment only aids such as prosthetic (false) limbs are taken into account when making an assessment.

In the future, the assessment will look at other aids such as wheelchairs and take into account how these aids are used successfully.

Question 8

Should the assessment of a disabled person's ability take into account any aids and adaptations they use?

- What aids and adaptations should be included?
- Should the assessment only take into account aids and adaptations where the person already has them or should we consider those that the person might be eligible for and can easily obtain?

To say that giving someone aids does not mean that they are disabled is crazy - All aids and adaptations should be taken into account but only in so much as to say without ~~less~~ these aids and adaptations people would not lead active ~~the~~ lives and participate fully in society - this would mean discriminate enough disabled people.

Notes:

Disabled people have said the claim form for DLA is too long and complex it looks at their impairments and health conditions in a negative way.

Question 9

How could we improve the process of applying for the benefit for individuals and make it a more positive experience? For example:

- How could we make the claim form easier to fill in?
- How can we improve information about the new benefit so that people are clear about what it is for and who is likely to qualify?

More advertising - different languages.
Braille - BSL - DVD
Shorter forms - More assessments

Notes:

The assessment process will need face to face meetings with an independent healthcare professional (a doctor or occupational therapist). There will be an opportunity for extra evidence from your own GP or social worker.

People with a terminal illness or complex conditions may be excluded from these types of assessment.

Question 10

What supporting evidence will help provide a clear assessment of ability and who is best placed to provide this?

GP information - Consultation info
But if people do not have this they
should not be penalized

Question 11

An important part of the new process is likely to be a face-to-face discussion with a healthcare professional.

- What benefits or difficulties might this bring?
- Are there any circumstances in which it may be inappropriate to require a face-to-face meeting with a healthcare professional – either in an individual's own home or another location?

Not everyone can explain their challenges
that they face. Some people may
feel intimidated.
Transport issues ~~can~~ to attend
appointment

Notes:

One of the major changes being considered will recognise a person's changing needs over time. A regular review of people using the new Personal Independence Payment will ensure a person's needs are being met appropriately.

These reviews might involve gathering evidence from various sources, including self-report forms, information from relevant professionals who support the individual and face to face or telephone discussions.

Question 12

How should the reviews be carried out? For example:

- What evidence and/or criteria should be used to set the frequency of reviews?
- Should there be different types of review depending on the needs of the individual and their impairment/condition?

All conditions are changeable - there should be different types of reviews for different conditions.
All evidence should be taken into account but you should not be penalized for being independent.

Question 13

The system for Personal Independence Payment will be easier for individuals to understand, so we expect people to be able to identify and report changes in their needs. However, we know that some people do not currently keep the Department informed. How can we encourage people to report changes in circumstances?

Make the system less complicated

Notes:

It is possible that the assessment process will include an element of information, advice and guidance around the options available to them.

It may become necessary for this to become a compulsory part of the assessment process.

Question 14

What types of advice and information are people applying for Personal Independence Payment likely to need and would it be helpful to provide this as part of the benefit claiming process?

~~Answer not B~~
Information in clear formats - easy read

Question 15

Could some form of requirement to access advice and support, where appropriate, help encourage the minority of claimants who might otherwise not take action? If so, what would be the key features of such a system, and what would need to be avoided?

Question 16

How do people currently fund their aids and adaptations? Should there be an option to use PIP's to meet one-off cost?

Yes Very Small

Notes:

It is recognised that disabled children and adult's needs can be very different.

Question 17

What are the key differences that we should take into account when assessing children?

That that they are growing and some will become more independent with age

Notes:

People receiving DLA at present are also sometimes eligible for other benefits that are means tested.

It is recognised that it is important for many people that they do not have to be reassessed for all benefits and this makes it easier for them to apply.

Question 18

How important or useful has DLA been at getting disabled people access to other services or entitlements? Are there things we can do to improve these passporting arrangements?

More advice - Some things should be included but not everything

Question 19

What would be the implications for disabled people and service providers if it was not possible for Personal Independence Payment to be used as a passport to other benefits and services?

have drawn out process repeated form filling and additional stress and expenses

Question 20

What different assessments for disability benefits or services could be combined and what information about the disabled person could be shared to minimise bureaucracy and duplication?

People should only need to give info once to save time and money

Question 21

What impact could our proposals have on the different equality groups and what else should be considered in developing the policy?

The people as a whole should be taken into consideration - "Holistic".
I fear some people who have struggled to become independent and work with mess out.

Question 22

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the proposals in this public consultation?

I agree the benefits needs to be looked at but they are using a sledge hammer to crack a nut

Optional

Name:

Address:

Telephone: