

Rec'd 1/2/2011



Consultation about changing Disability Living Allowance to a new benefit

Tell us what you think

December 2010



Easy Read

DWP

Department for
Work and Pensions

Questions

Question 1

What things stop disabled people joining in with other people and living full, active and independent lives?

assistants - to push wheelchairs etc. early appointments. No good if you depend on carers. No nighttime social life if carers can only see to you 9-10PM. Not many places equipped for wheelchairs - but is getting better. Transport. Money to pay carers - home helps - fuel etc.

Question 2

What parts of Disability Living Allowance do you think we should keep?

both.

Question 3

What extra things do disabled people need to spend money on?

? clothes - due to weight gain because of immobility or incontinence problems. Maybe diabetic foods etc.

Meals out if they can't cook for themselves. Taxis, paying carers to take them out, etc.

Question 4

The new benefit will have 2 amounts for each of the 2 parts of the benefit. Do you think this will make the benefit easier to understand and also easier for us to run? *yes*

Do you think just having the 2 amounts for each part will cause any problems?

No.

No-one working should get higher rate, video evidence needed here.

Question 5

Do you think some health conditions or disabilities should allow people to get an amount of the benefit automatically?

Or do you think that all claims should be based on the needs of the person asking for the benefit?

Cancer patients should get automatically but once they have the all clear and can manage back to work they should only be allowed low rate if its needed.

Question 6

1 How can we make sure that disabled people who most need the new benefit can get it?

2 What activities or actions are the most important to live an independent life?

- 1/ video cameras should be used on all people to see who is genuine. There are a lot of fraudsters about.
 - 2/ wash/dressing/feeding/admin drugs - getting out to meet other people. Isolation is the worst thing.
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Question 7

How can we make sure that the new benefit takes into account the way a person's health condition can change?

ask G.P. or person themselves.

Question 8

When a person makes a claim to the new benefit, should we take account of any aids or adaptations that they use?

What aids and adaptations should we take into account?

Should we only take aids and adaptations into account if the person already uses them? Or should we take aids and adaptations into account that a person could use and get hold of easily?

yes. aids are not used for fun. Video does not lie, so if its recorded you can see if they are genuine & not.

Question 9

How could we make the way a person asks for benefit better.
For example

- 1) • How could we make the claim form easier to fill in?
- 2) • How could we tell people about the new benefit so that they know what the benefit is for and who is likely to get the benefit?

- 1) A doctor or specialist from hospital should be the ones who decide who should get benefit and also video checks to make sure people are disabled & not committing fraud.
- 2) Advertisements in Surgeries - Hospitals - newspapers etc.

Question 10

Who are the best people to tell us about the needs of the person asking for benefit? As above 1)

What information will we need to make it clear what the person can and cannot do?

DR or O.T. report, or family/careers report, person themselves.

Question 11

An important part of the new benefit may be talking face to face with an independent person about how well you can do the things you need to do to take part in everyday life.

What good things and bad things may this bring?

Is there any time when it would not be right to say that a person had to meet an independent person face to face, either in the person's own home or somewhere else?

No.

Question 12

- 1) What should we use to decide how often we should look at a claim again and check it? *Its*
- 2) Should the way we look at a claim again depend on the needs of the person and their health condition or disability?

1) *Its fine at 3 months or 6 months for care.*

mobility for a car is 3 years. so a check before 3 yrs are up would be fine.

2) *Yes*

Question 13

The new benefit will be easier for people to understand, so we will expect people to tell us when things change in their lives.

How can we get people to tell us about the changes in their lives?

*Video cameras - as they can't argue with them.
They are quite happy to keep taking the money even if they are better now*

Question 14

- 1/ What types of help and advice are people who will ask for the new benefit likely to need?
- 2/ Would it help if we told people to get help and advice and where to get it from?

1/ where can they go to socialize and get them out of the house. L.A.C. helped me a great deal.

2/ yes

Question 15

- 1/ How do disabled people pay for their aids and adaptations at the moment?
- 2/ Should disabled people be allowed to use the new benefit to pay for a one-off cost?

1/ Some pay 20%, others nothing. This is not fair.

2/ ? don't understand.

Question 16

What are the main differences we should think about when we are dealing with claims for children instead of adults?

make sure travel / access at school etc. is suitable for all disabled children. Aids at swimming pools / gyms / bowling or any sports are available ^{also cinemas etc.} Talk to Teachers / children and everyone to explain how best to help. Involve the disabled person. They know themselves best.

Question 17

✓ How important or useful has Disability Living Allowance been in getting people to use other services or to get other benefits?

✗ What can we do to make things better?

✗ At the moment people who get Disability Living Allowance automatically get help from other benefits and services, like the Blue Badge scheme and the Warm Front scheme.

What would it mean to disabled people if they did not automatically get help from these other benefits or services?

✓ very important.

✗ ~~when someone gets D.L.A.~~ The G.P. or specialist should tell them to claim D.L.A.
✗ when the booklet should tell them what else they can claim for.

✓ Blue badge scheme - free tax due and motability benefit for a

car is really helpfull. W.A. vehicles are essential to getting out-and about. Without them - many would be isolated and very depressed.

Question 18

What information about the disabled person could we share with other services or government departments to stop the disabled person having to tell lots of people the same thing?

all information from DR. or OT. and person themselves.

Question 19

How would our ideas for the new benefit affect different equality groups? For example, the equality groups looking at disability, age, race, gender, **sexual orientation** and religion and belief.

Sexual orientation

This is about whether a person is

- heterosexual – sexually attracted to people of the other sex.
- lesbian – a woman who is sexually attracted to women.
- gay – a man who is sexually attracted to men.
- bisexual – sexually attracted to men and women.
- asexual – not sexually attracted to men or women

It shouldn't be any different.

Question 20

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about our plans?

They sound good. Keep videos running