

Dear Sir/Madam,

569
Rec'd
17/2/11

I have worked for many years within the deaf community and I feel that I have to let you know of the damage that has been done to many deaf people through receiving DLA payments:

DLA payments automatically, it seems, are given to every deaf person at the age of 16 (I think) - why??? The NHS pays for all hearing aids and other audiological equipment; local authorities pay for interpreters if and when required and they have free travel cards for buses (another mystery).

Deaf people are perfectly able-bodied and capable of holding down a job. There are organisations who advise and pay for adaptations that may be needed to working environments.

Many profoundly deaf people do work for a living, yet still receive DLA payments. They don't even know why they receive this money but take it all the same - it comes in useful for a holiday abroad or to buy a new car.

However, the people who suffer most; their lives are in fact ruined; they are condemned to a life on benefits becoming nothing more than layabouts, scroungers and fraudsters, are the deaf people who opt out of doing anything. They get their DLA payments at such an early age and are immediately demotivated.

It is actually heartbreaking to see such potential, as many of these people have, never being realised. It is as if they lose all pride in their ability to support themselves or do anything worthwhile.

Unfortunately, this way of living is being passed from generation to generation of deaf people. Parents who are deaf, are passing on this way of life to their deaf children. Many actually encourage their children to lie about their hearing loss etc. so as to gain maximum benefits.

It is within your power perhaps to change this sad state of affairs and give back ~~then~~ many deaf people the chance to contribute to society and feel valued.

Yours faithfully.

