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14th December 2010

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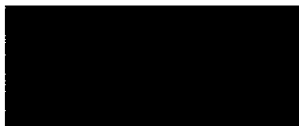
Dear Sirs,

I have recently received information regarding the possible changes to DLA. I have completed the questions at the end of the report as per attached but were unable to see where these should be sent.

I have sent these to you in the hope that you can forward them to the right department

Many thanks

Yours sincerely



Tel [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

Questions

Question 1

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

Access to buildings, facilities to meet
personal care needs, lack of adapted
equipment, 1:1 Support, transport,

Question 2

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

ALL OF IT !!

Question 3

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

TRANSPORT, SUPPORT WORKERS, EQUIPMENT,
PERSONAL CARE NEEDS.

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?

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

NO.

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?

Yes - Certain conditions at agreed levels

Should qualify automatically ie Cerebral

Palsy - Spastic Quadraplegic

Yes Benefit should be based on genuine need.

Question 6

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

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

Transport & 1:1 support (or support as required by the individual)

Question 7

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

Uncurable disabilities ie Downes Syndrome
Quadruplegic CP - should not have to provide basic
information over & over & over again - where symptoms
do not change - this is not required.

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?

Aids & adaptations are important to take into
consideration but in my daughters case we
should have various aids but as we are in
rented accommodation - not able to have them
so not just aids & adaptations should be
considered.

Question 9

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

- How could we make the claim form easier to fill in?
- 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?

A detailed one of form should be made available
to anyone wishing to claim and dependent on their
level of disability, future forms only when anything
changes.

Question 10

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

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

Individuals or Parent/carer where individual
not able to do so.

Health Professional - Practitioner

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?

Independent reviews is a good idea as
helps to ensure genuine people receive
the benefit - all for this

Question 12

What should we use to decide how often we should look at a claim again and check it?

Should the way we look at a claim again depend on the needs of the person and their health condition or disability?

Very much so - where a condition is unchanging
review should be less often.

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?

Make people aware that if they don't tell
you about changes they will have to pay
back funds and may have benefit stopped/
frozen.

Question 14

What types of help and advice are people who will ask for the new benefit likely to need?

Would it help if we told people to get help and advice and where to get it from?

Clear descriptions of information required
Clear guidelines on what is and what isn't eligible.
Advice helpline's - online advice - call centre.

Question 15

How do disabled people pay for their aids and adaptations at the moment?

Should disabled people be allowed to use the new benefit to pay for a one-off cost?

My own circumstances is that we have paid for most of our own - but in the main most aids provided by NHS - Adaptions via Grants through NHS etc.

Question 16

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

Don't see any real difference.

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?

My role as a co-ordinator has become more & more an administration role so where a person has a severe disability - access automatically to Blue Badge etc should continue.

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?

Basic Info should be shared through all
services / departments subject to individual
agreement.

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

Not Sure it would have any affect.

Question 20

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

New systems are not always welcome but I think
most people will agree that a system that ensures
genuine people receive the benefit is a good thing.
22 but it has to do properly. With NO GREY AREA'S.