

Question 1

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

Many of the disabled people are quite worried as to how they would be accepted as part of a group. Depending on their disabilities - will they be patient with me? - can I enter into conversation with them - all this might appear to others as not important - but just occasionally put yourself in their position!!

It's not just a financial problem!!

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?

As much as I understand DLA - yes regarding open to everyone who deserves help.

Question 3

What are the main extra costs that disabled people face?

Keeping warm in cold weather, and taking heat waves (which we do have sometimes) all these weather extremes can cost money, and clothes (suitable clothes).

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?

..... N.U. we all understand reasons for?

..... two rates - a feeling of unfairness to

..... people.

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?

..... If the reforms DLA is paid to condition

..... and not impairment - I fully agree - Diff. people

..... react differently to pain etc.

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?

..... I don't really understand the reform? (!!!)

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?

..... I do believe in future assessments, but each

..... person is an individual and what is right for one is

..... not necessary for all:

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?

..... I have no knowledge of ~~these~~ aids -
.....
..... I used a wheel chair for several weeks due to my
.....
..... Daily injuries & but it just exhausted my husband...
..... affecting me, so I gave that up and learned to live with
..... what I had - which was a very poor husband!!

Notes:

Disabled people have said the claim form for DLA is too long and complex is 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?

..... All FAMS suffer from the same complaint!!
.....
..... What is wrong with an easier more sensible
..... claim form!!
.....
.....

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?

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..... Different people to clearly assess ability
..... can be brought to help these cases but
..... prove what is possible or not
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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?

..... My opinion of Health Professional varies with the
..... person!!!
..... Health Professional do NO necessarily live with
..... particular problems or more than one problem.
.....
..... This is the most important question I answered!!
.....
..... Beware of the Health Prof! who knows all the
..... answers!!!
.....

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?

At least now people are beginning to realise
that time changes people and their needs
I believe this is very important for us all
to realise it just happens - hopefully for the
better.

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?

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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?

..... If this is fair to the person being assessed
..... O.K.
..... It will just depend on the type of person who
..... does the assessment and the time of day.
.....

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?

..... Yes I do think people need encouragement
..... and confidence to the person giving advice.
.....
.....
.....

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?

..... I DON'T KNOW
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

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?

..... Remember, at try to remember, ~~but~~ would you
..... could do as a child.....
.....

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?

..... ? I really have no knowledge or
..... experience of this, so I can't truly answer!!
.....
.....
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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?

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..... I have no knowledge of this
..... situation!
.....
.....

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?

Talking about people in this way, I feel to
not very helpful!!

Question 21

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

I am lost as to what different equality
groups - is it to do with age, sex, etc. etc.!!

Question 22

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

GOOD LUCK TO EVERY BODY.
GOOD HEALTH !!
I WANT TO BE INVOLVED BUT I'M NOT
SURE I UNDERSTAND ALL THE QUESTIONS !!

Optional

Name:.....

Address:.....

Telephone:.....