

About changing Disability Living Allowance

Question 1

Lack of ability to be independently mobile. Unable to plan travel due to lack of comprehension of what is required and mobility to understand and/or communicate with others. Unable to travel independently due to physical issues, inability to understand what to do, inability to be safe due to lack of understanding of what is dangerous, inability to understand and communicate with others.

Lack of ability to interact with others due to low ability to understand and/or communicate with others and to empathise and socially interact with them.

Lack of ability to take part in work, sport and other recreation due to physical issues, lack of understanding of what to do, inability to carry out tasks and poor communication.

Safety of the disabled person and others they come into contact with are big issues. Unable to look after themselves and keep themselves safe at home.

Question 2

Help with costs of meeting mobility needs. Help with costs of providing a carer/supporter for care needs in and out of the home. Help with equipment and aids to help to meet needs. Help with costs of ensuring the disabled person is kept safe in and out of the home. Help with costs to support work either paid or unpaid. Help with costs of recreational events to ensure the disabled person does not become isolated, withdrawn and depressed.

Question 3

See answer to question 2. Specialised travel vehicles may be required.

Question 4

No. Two amounts for each part does not seem enough to respond to the complex and varied needs of disabled people. A greater number of amounts could do this.

Question 5

Sometimes benefits should be given automatically. For example, terminally ill people and people with very severe difficulties should not be put through unnecessary bureaucracy. Otherwise claims should be based on individual needs.

Question 6

Individual assessment of their needs which is objective and fair, truly meeting the disabled person's needs. Good publicity about the benefits. Good understanding of the benefit system amongst professional people dealing with the disabled.

The activities that are most important are the ones which respond to the difficulties mentioned in the answer to question 1. Assistance with mobility. Ensuring safety. Provision of a carer or supporter to help the disabled person at home and with social needs to enrich their lives.

Question 7

Periodic reviews of requirements.

Question 8

Yes the benefit should take account of existing aids and adaptations. These should include hearing aids, smoke detectors, listening devices, help with physical mobility in and out of the home.

*Take A & A
into account*

Aids should take account of what a person needs and therefore should be based on what could be used.

Question 9

Make the questions more focused and less repetitive. Use clear everyday language. See answer to question 6.

Question 10

The person themselves if they are able. The carer of the disabled person. Professionals already involved in the care for the disabled person.

Information from the disabled person, from the carer and professionals involved with the disabled person for example family doctor, social worker and day centre staff.

Question 11

This would be good if the person has well developed skills and capabilities so as to understand the needs of disabled people and if they are truly motivated by the requirement to meet that individual's needs.

It would be bad if the independent person's skills and experience was not well enough developed to understand the needs of the very wide range of disabilities that would need to be assessed and if the motivation was cost driven rather than needs driven.

It is hard to see how the large number of independent assessors can have this high level of skills and experience leading to poor quality of assessment.

A face to face meeting would be a problem if the disabled person found the process frightening or worrying.

Question 12

The frequency with which claims should be re-assessed should be based on a medical or other professionally qualified assessment of the likelihood of the disabled person's condition changing and should continue to be based on their needs.

Question 13

The frequency of reviews should be based upon the likelihood of any change occurring so the review process should pick up changes.

Question 14

Advice should come from social workers but charities and other voluntary support organisations will help, given that it is likely that disabled people will need advice.

Yes it will help if you tell people to get help and advice and where to get it from. For example telephone numbers, web site addresses and names of contacts. You could also tell people about contacts for various services and equipment suppliers.

Question 15

From my experience as carer of a disabled person DLA is insufficient to pay for aids and adaptations which therefore have to be funded from other sources such as relative's finances. For the same reason it is unlikely that disabled people will have any spare money over and above paying for their day to day needs to be able to use the new benefit to pay for one off costs.

Question 16

They have their whole life ahead of them and should be able to purchase equipment that will enrich their lives and help fulfil their potential.

Question 17

I believe that DLA entitles the individual to claim other benefits

Let the individual know all the benefits they are entitled to claim if they get DLA.

It would make their life less tolerable. It would change their quality of life if they did not get other benefits automatically.

Question 18

Have a standard section in each of the forms describing the information about the disabled person that will be needed for each of the different services. It would then be easier for the person to just copy the information into a new form.

Question 19

It should have no effect for different equality groups.

Question 20

Make the forms less long winded. Do not use repetitive questions.
