



BRISTOL LINK's Response Personal Independence Payment: second draft of assessment regulations

December 2011

Personal Independence Payment: second draft of assessment regulations

Please see enclosed Bristol LINK's Self Directed Support Working Group's response to the Personal Independence Payment: second draft.

Comments

- In general Bristol LINK participants were happy with the key themes in the document although it appears that other aspects of the DLA components are under threat as the PIP will be a passport to other benefits and care packages
- The 3 stages – 1st Draft to look at the parameters' the 2 Draft to look at points is all leading to the final draft that will show how much the points will fund for both lower and higher limits.
- Bristol LINK participants look forward to the response which will show how many points to each band, particularly where some activities have a highest score of only 6
- Assessment must take information from those who support the disabled person as well as the person themselves if this is required by the disabled person
- Reassessing people with lifelong impairments is a colossal waste of precious resources as the most complex cases of people with Autism, or severe Learning Difficulties the process would be detrimental to their health and wellbeing, bordering on persecution and is thus likely to be discriminatory
- The consistent assessment of people with lifelong impairments should not take place
- The assessment regulation document is too broad, any assessment test on whether a person is disabled should not only be on their physical need and need to understand
- The emphasis on Learning Difficulties and Disabilities, mental health and complex needs does not take into account the assessment of the individual – particularly the needs of someone who is blind or has a visual impairment
- In No 11 Moving around – it was felt that this was badly worded, under section 'e and f' the term 'cannot move up to 50 metres' is ambiguous as a person may be able to make some movement – it would be better to read 'can move over 50 meters'.

- In No 11 Moving Around 'a' the term unaided may not include people with other conditions such as asthma and chronic heart conditions who would get no points. The points system cannot reflect the impairment that don't have direct cost implications
- In No 11 Moving Around 'b' a home can be further than 50 metres away from a bus stop and access to public transport in an urban area and much further in a rural area (especially if this is 25 metres from home and 25 metres back).
- Will people be jeopardy of losing their bus pass, blue badge, car tax allowance, eligibility for the mobility scheme if they do not score high enough points
- 4 points out of the 15 may not give enough funding to reflect the cost of taxi's or use of a personal car
- In No 11 Moving Around 'c' if you are unable to move 50 metres you can't reach public transport and if you have to use a wheelchair what is the criteria for how much further you can go in a wheelchair?
- Pushing a manual wheelchair may not be possible for a person who has weak arms, bad back or neck problems – would 8 points cover this?
- In No 11 Moving Around 'd' does not reflect the additional cost of purchasing a wheelchair
- The Disabled Living Allowance was a tool in getting people back to work and the way the PIP has been written will actually hinder this process
- Participants felt that the assessment should be condition specific and risk assessments be implemented to make sure that people did not fall through the system when their condition does not allow conformity to the PIP assessment process
- Bristol LINK participants feel that the PIP activity 11 Moving Around will lead to people being isolated in their own home and social exclusion
- A person who has a physical or mobility impairment will not be judged as a disabled person in law if they do not receive PIP