

British Deaf Association

It would seem that the DWP did not get enough feedback from the sensory loss sector on the above subject. Our understanding is that the main issues from Deaf people using the existing DLA are, for example:

- accessing BSL interpreters in places where the voluntary or local political parties are not prepared to pay for communication support, including local residents' group meetings, local charity support meetings, voluntary group meetings. The reason is that these types of groups are not seen as service providers but as self help groups who do not normally get funding.
- also accessing BSL interpreters in places where the providers should be obliged to provide communication support but often say alternative "reasonable adjustments" can be used such as writing notes, which doesn't actually help Deaf people because English is not their first language, BSL is.
- seeking support when Deaf people cannot hear public announcements such as tannoy information in railway and bus stations, TV news and radio information etc.
- Accessing written instructions, which they need translating into BSL
- Additional travel costs to socialise at Deaf clubs, BSL events/gatherings, subtitled / BSL translated programmes (cinemas, theatres)
- seeking assistance when they need someone to make a telephone call on their behalf - eg. for doctors appointments, job interview arrangements, sorting out utilities etc

Therefore, we are not clear how PIP will continue to support Deaf people, if it replaces the current DLA. Would it be possible for you to provide a few case studies that would help us capture whether PIP will enhance or reduce the independence of Deaf people in wider society.

Regards

David