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Sent: 20 March 2012 15:24

To: DWP PIP assessment

Subject: Redbridge Assertive Outreach Team

I have read with great interest about the introduction of PIP to eventually replace DLA and broadly speaking I welcome the change. Having worked with recipients of DLA since its introduction I feel the reform is much needed.

I wonder if it will be possible to include in the assessments of need a question about help already being provided? I worked in Supporting People funded accommodation for many years where residents claimed DLA for support that was already provided by home staff through their S.P. payments. For example, support with budgeting, correspondence, preparation of meals, personal care, shopping, support to go out, arranging and attending appointments and prompting with medication. Effectively they were getting the funding twice! Also, many service users benefit from travel passes at no cost. Maybe these kinds of existing support should be taken into account and PIP granted on the basis of meeting otherwise unmet needs? I feel with resources limited, we cannot afford to finance things twice over.

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