

DWP About changing Disability Living Allowance

Questions

Question 1

What things stop disabled people joining in with other people and living full, active and independent lives?

Obstacles - steps, stairs, ramps, width of doors,
height of seats, no grab rails, car parking, narrow
pavements & uneven surfaces, adequate toilet facilities,
wrongly placed flushing levels - cisterns & tap.
So many are not aware of the Access Act or what to do
about it.

Question 2

What parts of Disability Living Allowance do you think we should keep?

Terminology needs to be simple and understandable
e.g. "can you feed or prepare food-" if processed and
only needs to be heated and used. then the answer is NO,
but many who cannot do this but are able to use KFS usually
answer yes - result - they do not have a need - but really
they do.

Question 3

What extra things do disabled people need to spend money on?

Laundry, pre prepared and packaged food - often frozen.
purchase of gadgets - can openers, easy pour kettles.
light warm bedding, ^{and extra pillows} easy height adjusted chairs.
large button remote control handsets.

Question 4

The new benefit will have 2 amounts for each of the 2 parts of the benefit. Do you think this will make the benefit easier to understand and also easier for us to run?

Do you think just having the 2 amounts for each part will cause any problems?

Without an explanation of these parts - cannot pass an opinion. Would think that some may find smaller additions useful but would need to be at a level that would be ~~be~~ usefully useable.

Question 5

Do you think some health conditions or disabilities should allow people to get an amount of the benefit automatically?

Or do you think that all claims should be based on the needs of the person asking for the benefit?

"Need" needs to be the requirement but also has to be proved creditable & checked on from time to time. Comes to mind a golfer who plays the day before and after telling a doctor they have a bad back & need help to get out of bed & get dressed !! for example

Question 6

a) How can we make sure that disabled people who most need the new benefit can get it?

b) What activities or actions are the most important to live an independent life?

a) People who feel they can claim & get benefit without back up evidence should expect to be observed without warning. Even those with problems need to be checked on. - DLA & unemployment cash also.

b) Not to be too dependant on others - washing - dressing simple meals, able to read/write - use computers, able to get out & about - mobility do a very good job

Question 7

How can we make sure that the new benefit takes into account the way a person's health condition can change?

Regular reviews possible observations.

Question 8

When a person makes a claim to the new benefit, should we take account of any aids or adaptations that they use?

What aids and adaptations should we take into account?

Should we only take aids and adaptations into account if the person already uses them? Or should we take aids and adaptations into account that a person could use and get hold of easily?

Possible being a wheelchair 24/7, needing to use a stair lift - often to reach upstairs toilet - which leads to various rails etc.

Whatever aids / adaptations may be in use - the person's strength, attitude & stamina needs to be considered, not forgetting mental health.

Question 9

How could we make the way a person asks for benefit better.
For example

- a) • How could we make the claim form easier to fill in?
 - b) • How could we tell people about the new benefit so that they know what the benefit is for and who is likely to get the benefit?
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- a) Use plain simple English with specific definitions/meaning.
e.g. prepared food, laying out of clothes & order to put them on.
 - b) Explicit definitions
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Question 10

- Who are the best people to tell us about the needs of the person asking for benefit?
- a)

- What information will we need to make it clear what the person can and cannot do?
- b)

- a) Person asking, carers - how involved is a doctor or other medical people.
 - b) Ask and check.
Surely there are medics about who can tell just what a person can or cannot do.
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Question 11

An important part of the new benefit may be talking face to face with an independent person about how well you can do the things you need to do to take part in everyday life.

What good things and bad things may this bring?

Is there any time when it would not be right to say that a person had to meet an independent person face to face, either in the person's own home or somewhere else?

Guidelines need to have some common sense:-
a person standing for a minute may be O.R. but only temporary event
in the day

often the ~~sto~~ strain of life can be too much for some but
it may not be too apparent.

Asking for help ~~take~~ takes some facing up to and may go against inbuilt principles. but what has to be done. but form or visit must be expected to assess adequately what is need.

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Question 12

What should we use to decide how often we should look at a claim again and check it?

- a) ☐ Should the way we look at a claim again depend on the needs of the person and their health condition or disability?

a) The seriousness of the disability.

b) Some long term problems do not change too often - use common sense.

Some medical case reviews happen at 6 week intervals - possible - for a report to be duplicated.

Question 13

The new benefit will be easier for people to understand, so we will expect people to tell us when things change in their lives.

How can we get people to tell us about the changes in their lives?

one off Cash reward if done sensibly.

Question 14

What types of help and advice are people who will ask for the new benefit likely to need?

Would it help if we told people to get help and advice and where to get it from?

How to fill the form in!!!.

Explain what each bit is about & ^{what} required.

Question 15

How do disabled people pay for their aids and adaptations at the moment?

Should disabled people be allowed to use the new benefit to pay for a one-off cost?

Electric scooters can be bought on a HP. basis / or hired

Cars - then Mobility can be hired on a 3yr basis or bought. -

Often a lump sum is needed to get the paperwork in place.

Disability 2. A mobility is used for this.

Some Councils help with cost of creating an extra room for disabled use.

Use of wheel chairs could be available. Other aids - bed cradles can be obtained for as needed from some councils. Many aids - grab rails, banister, raised toilet seats come via Councils Social 19 services.

Question 16

What are the main differences we should think about when we are dealing with claims for children instead of adults?

Ability of child plus the needs of the case making the claim.

Question 17

How important or useful has Disability Living Allowance been in getting people to use other services or to get other benefits?

What can we do to make things better?

At the moment people who get Disability Living Allowance automatically get help from other benefits and services, like the Blue Badge scheme and the Warm Front scheme.

What would it mean to disabled people if they did not automatically get help from these other benefits or services?

Disabled also get free car tax Allowance too - a very big help to being able to get out & about.

Schemes mentioned are a great help. - Warm Front is for over 65 yrs but could possibly be of big help to all age groups - needs would be checked in.

Question 18

What information about the disabled person could we share with other services or government departments to stop the disabled person having to tell lots of people the same thing?

All of it :- Some medical problems could verify why & the need level of the claim.
persons who are working as well as try for disabled benefit but there are those ~~who~~ who work and do not declare it that cause problems with any system.

Question 19

How would our ideas for the new benefit affect different equality groups? For example, the equality groups looking at disability, age, race, gender, **sexual orientation** and religion and belief.

Sexual orientation

This is about whether a person is

- heterosexual – sexually attracted to people of the other sex.
- lesbian – a woman who is sexually attracted to women.
- gay – a man who is sexually attracted to men.
- bisexual – sexually attracted to men and women.
- asexual – not sexually attracted to men or women

A person living alone but needing casual support.

Question 20

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about our plans?

Would be nice to have some ~~extra~~ explicit qualifications to access. Many people do not get "gossip" newspapers and do fear of screening pieces now & then.