

DWP About changing Disability Living Allowance

Questions

Rec'd 2/2/11

Question 1

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

Lack of Money Lack of Capacity Lack of Practical help.
Public Abuse (attitudes towards disabled people).

Their Disability - Access - Mobility (lack of) -
Lack of Educational Facilities - Lack of Education of Public
about Inclusion - Attitudes of Paid Carers (Mind Set needs changing
so as Personalization is Normal) Attitudes of Social Services & Social
Workers Just living takes longer & is harder than for able people.
Question 2 Lack of money to train carers in training needed for
the person they are caring for.

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

All of it. Change the assessment & reassessment for
people that could have changes & STOP assessments for
people that cannot have changes. STOP wasting money
on assessing the very profoundly disabled.

Question 3

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

More Clothes, More bedding, More decorating, More transport costs
More Social Costs, Communication - Education - Aids -
More Electric - More Gas - More Water (Heating overnight

for Heart Disabilities) More Washing Machines More Soap Powder -

Special food - Specialist furniture Beds/Seater. Repairs -
Question 4 Spending Money on Carers - Paying for Carers to
go on holiday with them.

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?

No.

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?

Automatically - Yes for the Profound Disabled who will
not alter, not necessarily for a certain syndrome, for severity of
Health.

Question 6

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

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

Being able to Communicate and pay for the equipment &
Training to use it. Being able to afford to live a normal life when
you have abnormal expenses.

Self Assessment + G.P.
Reaching everyone can only be done by a Register of every Surgery

Question 7

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

Re assessment - Common Sense approach.

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?

Only if it makes the person ~~at~~ no longer needing help in that aspect of their life.

Anything that changes disable to able.

Are you serious? Do you know how long someone may have to wait for a NHS wheel chair? Unless someone knows how to fight the system there is no such thing as 'Get Hold of Easily'.

Question 9

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

- How could we make the claim form easier to fill in?
- 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?

Stop the repetitive questions

Tell us what the criteria is for a start.

I've been looking for the section about you taking the mobility allowance away from Residential people. Where is it?
Up front with what you intend!

Question 10

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

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

The person, if capable + GP if you don't trust them.
If no capacity - try the parents - no one knows them better -
if no parents it would have to be person most involved with them.

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?

If Capacity is lacking or non verbal you have an instant problem. Have you got trained assessors & the time & money that it will cost to do this. Public Money wasted again.

The average disabled LD person would need Advocacy to do this. Are you paying? Aren't you cutting Advocacy funding?

Question 12

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

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

Common Sense!

Of Course it should -

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?

Filling in yet another form - and educating them as to what ~~is~~ is a change

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?

Advocacy for L.D. people

Only if it is free & Accessible

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?

Out of their benefits - Credit Cards - Debit Cards.
Some are provided free from Social Services.

The money should be used for anything that the person needs to live more independently or helps to turn disabled into abled.

Be realistic who is going to monitor what money is spent on.
Who tells able people what to spend their money on.

Question 16

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

None - equality - a two month old baby may require 24 hour care - how can any parent do that on a long term basis.

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?

Does make it easier and life needs to be made as easy as possible

They'd be poorer than they are already.

Without Blue Badge you'd isolate people

Warm front helps people with insulation & that must save 20 a bit on heating costs.

Many people would not be able to go shopping or attend Social Activities

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?

Health - nothing else unless person has given
you permission -

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

They should not.

Question 20

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

Yes, you do not tell people what criteria really is.