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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?

Mobility - being able to get there safely.

Accessibility to buildings.

Relevant training for individual needs.

Inaccessibility to relevant information.

Having somebody to go with.

from train station signs to cooking instructions on tins + packets.

Question 2

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

Care + Mobility.

Question 3

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

- Daily living equipment to empower me to see what I'm doing.
ie: cooking, reading, mobility + keeping safe in the house. This sort of equipment is expensive - unfairly so.

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?

This question is confusing, someone is going to lose out. DLA is for the individual to benefit from + the DLA admin staff should be trained well enough to run it.

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?

Yes they should - and each claim should be judged on individual needs.

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?

- Individual Assessment - backed up by medical evidence - Identification + understanding of medicines + money,
 - being able to eat, move, socialise + communicate ability to shop, read + exercise
 - Ability to pursue further / higher qualifications
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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 regularly.

Open Communication

Good interagency working.

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?

No - because equipment is expensive to buy and can break easily.

Yes, but how do people find out about them?

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?

- Tell people by ringing them up - if visually impaired as they will find reading a letter difficult + many will not have access to the internet. - People with learning difficulties may not be able to read.

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 individual.

- Burns or bruises to the arms + legs
- Family + Carers.
- Assessment of Individual.

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?

- It will be good because you meet the individual in their own homes. However, judgement must also be made on how a person would cope in unfamiliar surroundings. DLA examines a person's weaknesses + this is most upsetting as none of us like talking about what we cannot do. This information is hard to divulge to a stranger.

Some people struggle with talking to strangers ie: newly disabled, (angry at what's happened to them) learning difficulties/disability. Can't understand what's happened to them + finds meeting new people very stressful.

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?

- The evidence given from individual + medical services.

Yes.

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?

Making phone contact easy.

Increase usage of internet

+ for others postage.

It is important to use all 3 methods to reach everybody.

Also, use local organisations ie. Disability Information Bureau.

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?

- help in completion of forms.

- Knowing where to get forms from.

Yes it would help if people were told.

Does such a list exist?

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?

by saving up.

No, as individual needs are complex and one aid isn't going to bring my eyesight back!

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Question 16

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

Childrens needs are going to continually change as they develop.

Although school can provide aids + adaptations for school, children are not always permitted/insured to take this equipment home.

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?

Some College fees were waived - Very Useful.
- keeping myself healthy by going to the gym
- British rail train pass - increases mobility.
However, does not start to cover taxi fares

Are blind people still going to be able to claim higher rate mobility?

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 information - get consent from person .

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

To be based on the individual needs
assessment.

Question 20

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

No.

Word list

Attendance Allowance

This is money that people aged 65 or over may be able to get if they need someone to help look after them because they are disabled6

Care and support

Care and support are the services and other things that help people live full, independent, active and healthy lives3

Consultation

This is when the government asks what people think about their plans, and for ideas about the best ways of doing things.....2

Disability Living Allowance

This is money that someone with a disability or a health condition may be able to get to help them pay for the help and support they need2