

This fact sheet is about the Personal Independence Payment or PIP. PIP is replacing Disability Living Allowance (DLA). Lots of people with a learning disability get DLA. This change is important for them to know about.



What is PIP?

The Government is bringing in a new benefit called the Personal Independence Payment (PIP). This will replace Disability Living Allowance (DLA).

If someone has a disability or a health condition, they often need more money to pay for things.

For example: they might not be able to travel on public transport and need to get a taxi instead. This costs more money. This means they have "extra costs".

DLA is to help disabled people pay for their "extra costs". PIP will also be for this.



Why is the Government replacing DLA?

The Government has said that they are replacing DLA with PIP because the amount of money being spent on DLA is too much and is getting bigger.

They have also said that PIP will be better than DLA at looking at the effect someone's disability or health condition has on their daily life.



Who can apply for PIP?

PIP is for disabled people or people with a health condition who are aged between 16 and 64.

People will have to apply for PIP. They will have a test to see if they are allowed to get this money.



What will PIP be like?

There are two parts to PIP.

The first part is called Daily Living. This is about how much support people with a disability need to be able to do day to day activities.

If you get this part of PIP it means you have been assessed as having extra costs with your daily life because of your disability.



The second part is called Mobility. This is about how somebody gets around. If you get this part of PIP it means you have been assessed as having extra costs with you mobility because of your disability.



How much money is PIP?

The two parts of PIP will each have two rates.

This is the amount of money you will get.

The two rates are called the standard rate and enhanced rate.

The enhanced rate is a higher rate, so people will get more money.

The amount of money people will get for either rate is still being decided.



How do people apply for PIP?

The new benefit will start in April 2013.

If you are applying for PIP for the first time:

- You need to have a disability or a health condition
- You need to have had your disability or health condition for at least 3 months

People already getting DLA will be contacted about the change to Personal Independence Payment (PIP).

This will start in the Autumn of 2013 and go on until 2016.



Who will get PIP?

There will be a new test for PIP to see if someone can get it. This will be different to the one for DLA.

As part of this test, most people will have to meet with a health care professional (somebody like a doctor or nurse).

Lots of people who get DLA now will not have had to have a meeting like this. This is one of the big differences between DLA and PIP.

The test will decide whether or not someone is allowed to get PIP.

The government has said that it thinks 500,000 less people will get PIP than DLA.





What does Mencap think about PIP?

Mencap is worried that fewer people will get PIP than DLA.

The Government has said that it is important to give money to people who need the most support.

Mencap is worried about what this means for people who don't need as much support.

Mencap does not want people who need less support but still have "extra costs" miss out on getting PIP.

We think this might make it harder for people with a learning disability to live independently.

Mencap knows that many people with a learning disability, and other disabled people don't have much money. If they lose their DLA this will make their lives much worse.

Mencap is talking to the Government about the support that people with a learning disability need.



You can get more information and advice about the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) from Mencap's helpline on 0808 808 1111 or by e-mail at help@mencap.org.uk