



**Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board**

***Report for the period 2008-2009***

***This report covers the period January 2008 – April 2009***

This report is prepared with the support of DWP however the views expressed are solely those of the Board.

# The Annual Report 2008-2009 of The Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board

## **The composition of the Board**

The Board consists of a Chairman appointed by the Secretary of State and between 11 and 20 members. The Board members must include:

- at least six disabled people and
- at least one person who cares for a disabled person

and members who have professional knowledge or experience in these areas:

- physiotherapy
- occupational therapy
- social work
- nursing people with disabilities
- medical practice

## **The purpose of the Board**

We provide independent advice to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and doctors (who provide medical advice and examination services to the Department of Work and Pensions) on matters relating to Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance.

We also:

- Hold meetings with organisations of and for people with disabilities
- Provide information to decision-makers in the Disability and Carers Service

## **Board Meetings**

The Board meets in London. We explored the practicality of holding our meetings at venues around the country. Board members are based in locations all around England, Scotland and Wales. Taking in to consideration transport options, the needs of our Disabled members and the location of the secretariat we concluded that London is the most practical place to hold our meetings. There have been three Full Board meetings in 2008 on February 12<sup>th</sup>, June 10<sup>th</sup> and October 14<sup>th</sup> and more informal meetings on December 9<sup>th</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup> 2009. All minutes of our Full Board meetings are available on DLAAB pages on the DWP website.

## **Projects – formats and quality standards**

The Board undertakes projects commissioned by The Secretary of State, the Department or that arise in the course of the Board's work.

All projects are subject to an Equality Impact Assessment.

Each project has a project leader and a team drawn from members of the Board with appropriate experience, interest and knowledge. Projects follow guidelines drawn up by the Board to assure the quality and consistency of reports. Controls are in place to agree the quality standards, success criteria, amount of effort and timescales required and to ensure there is no conflict of interest.

Projects are undertaken using IT where practical. Some projects require face-to-face meetings in order to discuss findings at length. These are held in London.

Project Reports have been published on the DLAAB section of the DWP website.

## **Projects completed December 2007-April 2009**

- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- Higher rate mobility and severe blindness
- Higher rate mobility and heavy equipment for children under 3

Review of DWP CCM guidelines for:

- Anxiety disorders
- Depressive illness
- Severe back pain
- Epilepsy