

Personal Independence Payment

Mary Hipkin – DWP (Disability and Carers Benefits)

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Case for reforming DLA

- Since its introduction in 1992 DLA, has remained broadly unchanged.
- Loosely defined, outdated eligibility criteria:
 - subjective and inconsistent awards;
 - claimants with identical needs getting different awards; and
 - some eligibility criteria are weighted towards those with physical impairments/conditions
- Complex and confusing – in both in purpose and rules of the benefit
- Reliant on self assessment – around half of DLA decisions are made without additional corroborative medical information

Case for reforming DLA

- No systematic award review mechanism:
 - 70% of the current DLA caseload have “indefinite awards”; and
 - gradual changes (better/worse) in a person’s condition and improvements in treatments are not timely picked up or reported
- Costs are unsustainable in the long term – spending forecast to reach £13.8 billion in 2015/16

Personal Independence Payment (2013)

- Personal Independence Payment will be:
 - A non-means-tested and non-taxable cash benefit, payable to people whether they are in or out of work and which people can spend in a way that best suits them
 - Simpler to administer and easier to understand
 - Fair and support disabled people who face the greatest challenges to remaining independent and leading full, active lives
- Entitlement will not be solely based on the type of health condition or impairment
- Individuals will be assessed on ability to carry out a range of everyday activities – a more individualised approach to assessing an individual's claim
- Have a new fairer, more objective and more transparent assessment

Personal Independence Payment assessment

- Being developed in collaboration with a group of independent experts in health and disability, including disabled people
- Eligibility criteria placed in structured assessment framework
- First draft of the assessment criteria was published in May
- Over the summer we consulted on initial proposals and tested them by carrying out sample assessments on around 900 volunteers
- Received 170 responses and met around 60 organisations including those in Scotland
- We have listened to the extensive feedback and will be reflecting this in the second draft of the assessment criteria.

Involving disabled people and their organisations

- Over 5,500 responses to formal consultation
- On-going discussions with disabled people and organisations of and for disabled people
- On-going consultation including on assessment criteria
- Personal Independence Payment Implementation Development Group of 56 disability organisations informing design - including Edinburgh Advice Shop
- Putting customers at heart of design

Next Steps

- PIP clauses considered by Lords Committee
- Ongoing stakeholder engagement and consultation
- Developing Regulations
- Design and delivery of Personal Independence Payment – Implementation Development Group workshops in December