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Welfare Reform:

What you need to know

Information Sheet:

Disability Living Allowance
Reform

Disability Living Allowance

What is the change?

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) is going to be replaced with a new benefit called Personal Independence Payment (PIP). **This change will not apply to those over 65, and will only affect children when they turn 16.**

When will it happen?

For new claims: The new benefit will be introduced in **April 2013** for new claims in the north of England, and will be gradually rolled out over the whole country for all new claims.

For existing claims: Existing claimants of DLA will have their awards reassessed between April 2013 and March 2016. **All** existing claimants of DLA will be reassessed, even those who currently have a lifetime award.

What's staying the same as DLA?

Many aspects of Personal Independence Payments will be the same as Disability Living Allowance. These include:

- PIP will have two components, a mobility component and a daily living component.
- It won't be means-tested or taxed and won't depend on national insurance contributions.
- It can be claimed in or out of work.
- It will be payable to adults who claim before they reach 65 and can continue in payment beyond that age.
- There will still be 'special rules' claims for people who are terminally ill.
- The Motability scheme will still be supported under PIP.
- The time that someone has to wait before they can claim PIP will still be 3 months

What's changing?

- The upper age limit of 65 will increase in line with the changes to State Pension age.
- People with conditions that have periods of remission, where continued payment of PIP would be inappropriate, will not have to fulfil the qualifying period again if they make a further claim within a year of the date they were last entitled.
- There will be no more automatic entitlement for specific conditions or impairments, such as double amputees or people who are both deaf and blind.
- There will only be two rates for both components - a standard rate and an enhanced rate. This is different to DLA which has three rates for the care component.
- There will be a shorter claim form, and the ability to claim on-line.
- Most people will have to have a face-to-face assessment with a health professional (apart from people awarded under the 'special rules').

