

CHANGES TO BENEFITS

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) have replaced Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

Disability Living Allowance will be replaced by Personal Independent Payment (PIP) for everyone over the age of 16. This also applies to people who have previously been awarded DLA indefinitely. Personal Independence Payment is based on an assessment of individual need. The new assessment will focus on an individual's ability to carry out a range of key activities necessary for everyday living. Information will be gathered from the individual, as well as healthcare and other professionals who work with and support them. Most people will also be asked to attend a face to face assessment with a trained independent assessor as part of the claim process.

Key Information:

- ◆ In April 2013, Personal Independence Payment replaced DLA for those over 16. All new applicants will be assessed under PIP automatically. All existing DLA claimants should receive a notification to transfer to PIP by **October 2017**.

You'll be asked to make a claim for PIP when any of the following happen:

- **Your DLA ends because it was awarded for a fixed period of time eg for 5 years**
- **You turn 16**
- **Your condition changes**
- **The Department of Working Pensions (DWP) sends you a letter asking you to claim**
- ◆ You'll need to make a claim for PIP **within 4 weeks of receiving notification from DWP** or your DLA will be suspended.
- ◆ Under the new guidance you will not automatically qualify for a Blue Badge with the enhanced

Benefit change post 16.

As many parents are aware once their child turns 16 there will be a number of changes to the benefits they receive. There could also be changes to any benefits the family receives.

Below is a quick guide to some of the most common changes to benefits:

Child Benefit and Child Tax Credit; these benefits will usually stop after your child turns 50, however this can be extended if your child qualifies under certain exemptions i.e. Full time education.

Please note if your Child Benefit and Child Tax Credit end, your child will normally be eligible to receive Employment Support Allowance (ESA).

Working Tax Credit; may be affected as a child is defined as someone who is under 16 (or under 20 if they're in approved education or training). This may change your eligibility for Working Tax Credit.

DLA (Disability Living Allowance)/ PIP (Personal Independence Payment); Once a child reaches the age of 16 they will automatically be assumed to have capacity to manage their own finances. You will usually have a representative from the DWP visit and look at the ability of your child to manage their money. If your child is deemed not to have capacity to manage their finances you will normally be made an "Appointee" by the DWP

Benefit Cap:*

There is a cap on the total amount you can receive from the main out-of-work benefits and children's benefits. However some of these benefits are not included in the cap calculation and in some circumstances you can be exempt from the cap.

Exemptions from the cap

You are exempt from the cap if you or anyone in your household (a partner, dependent child or qualifying young person) receive any of the following:

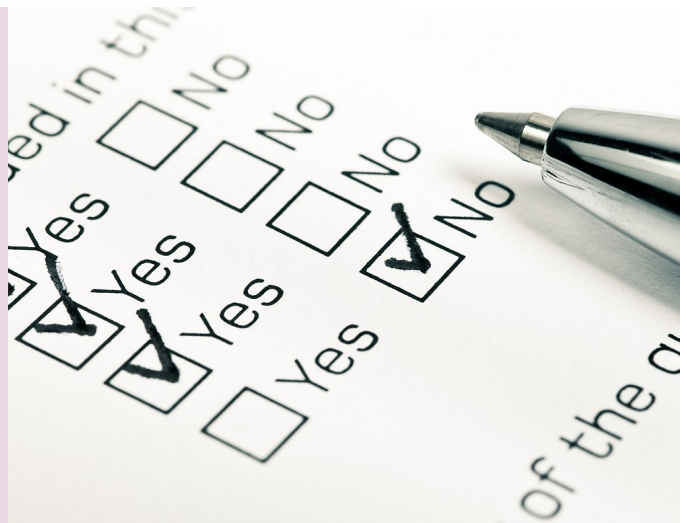
- armed forces compensation scheme guaranteed income payment;
- armed forces independence payment
- attendance allowance;
- **disability living allowance;**
- housing benefit - if you are living in supported accommodation (referred to as 'specified' accommodation in current housing benefit legislation);
- industrial injuries benefits;
- **personal independence payment;**
- war disablement pension; or
- War widows, widowers or surviving civil partner's pension.
- **anyone in your household is entitled to carers allowance** (from 7th November 2016)
- anyone in your household is entitled to guardian's allowance (from 7th November 2016)

*Details from Disability Rights U.K

Universal Credit

Universal Credit has replaced Income based Employment Support Allowance, Income based Job Seekers Allowance, Child Tax Credit, Income Support, Housing Benefit and Working Tax Credit in October 2013.

Universal Credit is a new single payment for people who are out of work or on a low income.



Key Information:

* Current claimants will be transferred to Universal Credit in a phased approach.

*You do not need to do anything if you are currently claiming other benefits. Your local jobcentre plus or tax credit office will contact you when you are due to transfer to Universal Credits.

For more information or support with any of these changes please contact Sam at Full of Life's Carers Advocacy Service on 0208 962 9917 / Email: advocacy@fulloflifekc.com