

# The **Potteries Gold** Post

## **PROBLEMS WITH PIP!**

PIP (**Personal Independence Payment**) is a benefit for people with a long-term health problem or disability that causes them difficulty with 'daily living' or 'mobility'. PIP is replacing DLA (Disability Living Allowance) for people aged 16 to 65. You do not have to be on a low income to claim it.

Claiming PIP involves filling in a **long form** and, usually, going to a **face-to-face medical**. Many people need help with this but, recently, we've noticed even more demand. DWP statistics show that the number of claims registered from Stoke-on-Trent suddenly jumped up – from **292** in **August**, to 819 in September and **1030** in **October!**

The number of **new claims** has stayed steady, at about **200 per month**, but the number of **reassessments** has soared. Some of these are for people changing from DLA to PIP, others are for people awarded PIP for a **fixed period** whose claim is now being reviewed.

### **CHANGING FROM DLA TO PIP?**

If you get DLA, unless you were **over 65** on **8<sup>th</sup> April 2013**, sometime in the near future you will be 'invited' to claim PIP. If you don't do this **within 28 days**, your DLA claim will end. If you make a PIP claim, your DLA is paid until a decision is made about that. PIP uses a **points system** to decide if you qualify and what you should be paid. Because it assesses disability differently to DLA, you might get more or less PIP. This might affect other benefits too.

By the end of **October 2016**:



**LOTTERY FUNDED**

- 48 per cent of DLA reassessments for PIP led to benefit being disallowed or reduced.
- 12 per cent got the same amount of benefit.
- 40 per cent resulted in an increased benefit award

## **CAN I CHOOSE TO SWAP FROM DLA TO PIP?**

If, after taking specialist advice, you are sure you should get a higher rate of benefit on PIP than you currently get in DLA, you can opt to claim sooner. However, if your claim for PIP is turned down or you get less than you used to in DLA, you cannot go back onto DLA, so think carefully before you do this. Losing a benefit like DLA or PIP can affect your other benefits, so always get advice.

## **WHAT IF I HAVE AN “INDEFINITE” AWARD OF DLA?**

Unless you were 65 or over on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2013, you will still be asked to claim PIP one day. Even if you had DLA “for life”, you might get less or not qualify for PIP. It will depend on whether your care, support and mobility needs fit the PIP rules.

## **WHO CAN HELP ME WITH MY CLAIM?**

### **Citizens Advice**

On-line Advice: [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/sick-or-disabled-people-and-carers/pip/help-with-your-pip-claim/fill-in-form/](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/sick-or-disabled-people-and-carers/pip/help-with-your-pip-claim/fill-in-form/)

Telephone Advice: Staffordshire AdviceLine - 03444 111 444

Drop-in Advice: (Citizens Advice, Cheapside, Hanley, ST1 1HL)

Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri 9.30am to 1.30pm

### **Disability Solutions**

Telephone: 01782 667333 or email: [cw@disability-solutions.net](mailto:cw@disability-solutions.net)

Potteries Gold is a **Citizens Advice Staffordshire North & Stoke-on-Trent** project to help people in Stoke-on-Trent cope with changes to the benefit system

★ **Benefit Talks for your community group** ★ **Pop-Up Benefit Advice** ★

★ **PIP/ESA Workshops** ★ **Benefit Leaflets** ★ **The Potteries Gold Post** ★ **Volunteering** ★

[www.sncab.org.uk/about-us/potteries-gold](http://www.sncab.org.uk/about-us/potteries-gold)

Follow us on Facebook: Search for **Potteries Gold**



**LOTTERY FUNDED**