

# The **Potteries Gold** Post

## **LAST CHANCE TO BENEFIT!**

### **CLAIM YOUR 'DISABILITY PREMIUMS' WHILE YOU CAN!**

With no sign of a slow-down in the roll out of Universal Credit, we expect the full service in **Stoke-on-Trent** from **5<sup>th</sup> March 2018**. We want to make sure that people who will get **less on UC** than Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income-related ESA or Income Support make their claims for a **legacy benefit** before it's too late!

Many of the people who stand to lose out under the new system are disabled. This is because Universal Credit only treats an adult as 'disabled' if they pass a Work Capability Assessment (as if claiming ESA now). Getting PIP or other disability benefits won't count.

### **THE DISABILITY PREMIUM**

This extra amount – worth **£32.55** for a single person's claim and **£46.40** for a couple – can be added to calculations for income-based JSA, Income Support and Housing Benefits. For example:



Diana is a lone parent. She gets **PIP** at the **standard rate for mobility**. Her Income Support is made up of a **£73.10** personal allowance, plus **£32.55** disability premium, making **£105.65** per week.

If she was claiming Universal Credit, Diana would get no extra element for being disabled.

### **THE ENHANCED DISABILITY PREMIUM**

This is included when someone is in the **ESA Support Group** or who gets **PIP** at the **enhanced rate for daily living**, **DLA** at the **higher rate for care** or higher rate **Attendance Allowance**, and claims a **means-tested benefit**.



For example:



Damian gets PIP at the **enhanced rate** for **daily living** and for mobility. He has been found **fit for work** and is claiming Jobseeker's Allowance. He gets **contribution-based JSA** of **£73.10** per week.

He should claim **income-based JSA** too as he should get a **disability premium** and an **enhanced disability premium** added to his personal allowance, giving him **£121.55** JSA per week.

If he was claiming Universal Credit, Damian would not get any extra UC for being disabled.

## **THE SEVERE DISABILITY PREMIUM**

The **severe disability premium** is worth up to **£62.75** per week extra. You can have it added to the calculation of your means-tested benefits if you get **PIP** at either rate for **daily living**, **DLA** at the **middle** or **higher** rate for **care** or **Attendance Allowance** and:

- You **live alone**, or all other adults living with you get one of these benefits or are registered blind, *and...*
- Nobody receives **Carer's Allowance** or a **UC Carer's Element** for looking after you. This might be because nobody claims it or because Carer's Allowance is not paid to your carer because they get different benefit like ESA, paid at a higher rate instead.

Because the severe disability premium can be such an important addition, we are producing a **Potteries Gold leaflet** explaining more about it and will be running a **take-up campaign** on our Facebook page and Twitter feed next week!

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** ★

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