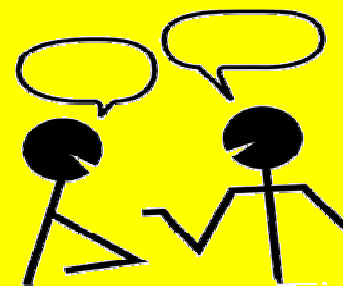


PADAN BULLETIN



February 2011

Proposed Changes to Disability Living Allowance

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has produced a public consultation document seeking views on a radical overhaul of the existing system, which will see the existing Disability Living Allowance replaced with a Personal Independence Payment (PIP), which the Government claims will be more efficient, and simpler to understand than the existing system, which it says has become “confusing, complex and unsustainable.”

From 2013/14, all new and existing claimants of DLA aged 16-64 will be required to undergo an assessment, regardless of the length of their original award. The Government is still deciding whether or not to assess children and those over 65. The existing rules of conditionality, that automatically qualify people with certain impairments or conditions, will be removed. The existing lower, middle and higher rates of mobility and care components will be replaced by mobility and daily living components, which will both have only a lower and a higher rate.

Online campaign group The Broken of Britain, set up in reaction to public spending cuts affecting disabled people, referred to the proposals in a statement as “an unnecessary and expensive rebranding exercise.”

Many disability organisations are already mobilising to prepare responses to the consultation, which runs until 14 February 2011. (Disability Now)

Disability Now: <http://www.disabilitynow.org.uk/living/features/pip-replacement>

The Broken of Britain: <http://thebrokenofbritain.blogspot.com/>

Disabled People Against Cuts:

<http://disabilitymessageboard.blogspot.com/2010/10/disabled-people-against-cuts-dpac.html>

Proposed Changes to Disability Living Allowance

In their joint report **Don't Limit Mobility**, 27 national charities have joined together to raise concerns about the removal of the DLA mobility component for people living in residential care.

“If the government goes ahead with this proposal, it will have a significant and adverse impact on the everyday life of those affected. The possible outcome can only be one of two things: people will be forced to remain indoors and have a diminished quality of life; or social services will be forced to make up the difference in funding. Given the current climate, we do not expect local authorities to be able to do this,” said the Leonard Cheshire Disability organisation.

You can obtain a full copy of **Don't Limit Mobility** from:

Leonard Cheshire Disability: <http://www.lcdisability.org/?lid=14585>

Or from PADAN: <http://www.plymouthguild.org.uk/involve-disabled/dan-mailout>

Independent Living Fund to close

The fears of disabled people about the future of the Independent Living Fund (ILF) have been confirmed by the announcement that the fund is to close by 2015.

The ILF, set up in 1988, provides money to more than 20 thousand disabled people with high support needs to live independently at home out of residential care.

Ian Burnip, a 24-year-old ILF service user said: “I have relied on the ILF to enable me to go to university, obtain a BSc and an MA, and live independently in the community I choose. This has allowed me to develop and maintain key friendships with people from all walks of life, and live what society would deem a perfectly normal life. Without the financial support provided by the ILF I could not have done this. “

The minister for disabled people Maria Miller said that following a review and informal consultations with disability organisations and representatives from local government and the Department of Health, the coalition government had decided that the ILF was "financially unsustainable".

Want to know how accessible the buildings are in Plymouth?

Take a look at the DisabledGo website:

www.disabledgo.com



RippleFest
Take part in Art Disability Arts Weekend

Look out for the first RippleFest weekend, 8th, 9th, 10th April organised by PADAN in partnership with Plymouth Guild and the University of Plymouth.

There will be a range of art workshops on offer including dance, painting, paper sculpture and performance.

PADAN February Catch Up

The PADAN Management Group met in December and January. Unfortunately due to illness and much to the Management Group's regret, David Holmes has resigned as Vice Chair, and also from the PMG for the time being.

PADAN has received two funding grants to enable Charity Commission registration to proceed and to support the development of PADAN. Setting up a PADAN website has been identified as a priority now that some funds have become available.

A meeting with Plymouth DisabledGo members and a DisabledGo representative was held on 20th January. Issues with the DisabledGo website were raised. PADAN members also met with the City Council's Parking Team.

The RippleFest arts weekend is planned for 8th, 9th and 10th April and will be held at the University's Roland Levinsky Building. There will be arts workshops for disabled people running on Saturday 9th, with a special launch event on the previous evening.

Watch this space for more updates and how you can reserve your place.

Contact Us

Report a disability incident to
Plymouth City Council
01752 304321
Inclusion@plymouth.gov.uk

Fix the Web
Improving the online experience for
disabled people
www.fixtheweb.net

Matching Houses
House swapping for
disabled people

www.matchinghouses.com

**Are you a member of
PADAN?**

Why not?

Membership is free with lots of opportunities to get involved with access issues, consultation sessions, short term projects and much more.

Contact PADAN
Email: info@plymdan.org.uk

**ACCESS PLYMOUTH
(Shopmobility)**

01752 600633

DEW
(Disability Engagement Worker)

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**Plymouth
Disabled Bus Users Group**

Contact: David Cumbers
07966 515928

DBUG meets with bus operators once a quarter to discuss the issues of bus access, better bus design, driver training and customer care.

Disclaimer

Although every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this bulletin is correct at the time of going to publication, Plymouth Guild will accept no responsibility for the accuracy of text. Views expressed in articles in the PADAN Bulletin are not necessarily those held by Plymouth Guild.

**Plymouth Wheelchair
Service User Group
(PWSUG)**

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