

WHAT IS PIP?

This fact sheet has been written by parent carers for parent carers.



Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is a benefit for working-age people who face extra challenges carrying out everyday activities or getting out and about.

A claimant must have had additional needs for at least three months, and expect to have the same needs for at least the next nine months. Residency rules also mean they have to have been living in the UK for two out of the last three years.

PIP is not taxed or counted as income for means-tested benefits. It's not based on National Insurance contributions and can be paid both in and out of work.

How is PIP awarded?

PIP is paid in two parts: a **mobility component** based on a person's ability to get around, and a **daily living component** based on their ability to look after themselves. Each component of PIP is paid at one of two rates known as the standard and enhanced rate.

The PIP assessment focuses on a young person's ability to carry out 12 everyday activities. These include preparing a meal, communicating, handling money or planning and following a journey.

PIP uses a **points-based system**, to decide whether someone qualifies for the benefit, and if they do at what rate they will be paid. You score points when you are not able to complete a task '**reliably**', which means safely, to an acceptable standard, repeatedly and in a reasonable time. Some activities attract more points than others. To make a successful claim for PIP, a young person needs to score 8 points to qualify for the standard rate of the component and 12 points for the enhanced rate. You can read more about this in our companion fact sheet *Tips for claiming PIP*.

For many young people, the new PIP assessment process will also involve a **face-to-face meeting** with a health professional. You can read more about this in our companion fact sheet, *PIP Face-to-Face Assessments*.

Under PIP no one, (other than people who are terminally ill) will have any automatic entitlement.

Nearly all awards will be time limited, with very few indefinite awards. Most awards are likely to be shorter and reviewed more frequently than awards for DLA.

When will a young person need to claim PIP?

There is **no automatic migration between DLA and PIP**.

Young people who receive DLA will get a letter when they are 15 years 7 months to tell them when and how to apply for PIP. A reminder will be sent three months later. Once you apply for PIP, there are special arrangements allowing current DLA awards to run on temporarily after someone's 16th birthday, until a decision is made on their PIP claim. We understand these claims are looked at by a specialist team of decision-makers.





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Everyone aged 18 and over who gets DLA will be reassessed under PIP rules if: they report a change in 'circumstances' that might affect the rate of their award; their DLA award is coming to an end; they volunteer to claim PIP instead. It's advisable to take further advice before volunteering to claim PIP early, and unless your circumstances change, you do not need to do anything until you get this letter.

If a claimant is 16 or over and has never claimed DLA, they will need to claim PIP instead.

You need to act promptly as soon as the Department for Work and Pensions writes to you or your child about PIP. If neither of you reply to the invitation to apply for PIP, their DLA award will be suspended 28 days later. If a claim is made within 28 days of the suspension, the DLA award will be restored until a decision is made on the PIP claim. If you do nothing, a DLA claim will end permanently eight weeks after they wrote to you. You will not be able to appeal the decision, but you will be able to make a claim for PIP instead.

How to start a claim

PIP claims begin over the phone. Ring the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) on **0800 917 2222**. You can call on behalf of a young person but they should be with you when you do this.

You will be asked for basic details like your child's name (or your name if you're the claimant), address, date of birth and main area of difficulty. You will also need to give the claimant's National Insurance number, doctor's or health worker's names and have information to hand about time spent abroad, in a residential school, care home or hospital. The DWP will also ask for bank or building society details. You will be sent a 'How your condition affects you' form. The claim pack will have the claimant's details printed on it. It comes with notes to help you fill it in.

Use the time while you are waiting for the claim pack to arrive to get organised. You will need as much evidence as you can muster. If you can't find your own copies of reports or assessments, ring the advice givers now and get more sent. If you have no advices, but feel the claimant still has very significant extra needs, think about paying for an independent assessment. Without supporting evidence, a claim is unlikely to be successful.

Special rules for life-limiting illness

If someone is diagnosed with a life-limiting illness and is unlikely to live more than six months, they can claim PIP under Special Rules. They will automatically be awarded the high rate care component and don't need to meet retrospective or prospective tests.

Ask your consultant for a DS1500 certificate and send it with the claim. If you'd rather not read what they write, ask for the DS1500 to be handed to you in a sealed envelope, or give the parts of the claim you have completed to the consultant or specialist nurse: they will be happy to send it for you. The DWP aims to make decisions about these claims within eight days.

Extra benefits if you get PIP

PIP is a passport to disability premiums and you may be eligible to extra child Tax Credits under the old benefits system, or extra Universal Credits under the new system. Make sure you let your benefits office know that your young person has a PIP award. Any household that includes someone getting PIP will also be exempt from the benefit cap.





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If a young person is entitled to the daily living component of PIP, then someone else may be able to claim Carer's Allowance for looking after them.

Getting the enhanced rate of the mobility component of PIP may entitle a young person to access the Motability scheme and a Blue Badge.

Ask about

- **Blue Badge** – if you get eight points or more under the 'moving around' section of the mobility component of PIP, or 10 points under planning and following a journey because you are unable to undertake any journey due to overwhelming psychological distress, or if you are severely sight-impaired you will be entitled to a 'Blue Badge', which allows the holder to park in disabled bays and disregard some parking restrictions. To find out more contact: **01243 777653**, email: **blue.badges@westsussex.gov.uk** or go to: **www.westsussex.gov.uk**. You can also apply for an on-street disabled parking bay outside your home through the above website.
- **Citizen's Advice Bureau** – can help with benefits claims, including DLA. There are offices across the county. Tel: **0344 477 1171** or go to: **www.advicewestsussex.org.uk**.
- **Motability** – if you receive the enhanced rate of mobility for PIP, you may be able to use that part of the award to lease a car or scooter via the Motability scheme. Call: **0300 456 4566** or visit: **www.motability.co.uk**.
- **Social care** – your child's social worker may be able to help you to fill out the PIP form. For under 18s call the MASH, tel: **01403 229 900**, email: **MASH@westsussex.gov.uk**. for over 18s, contact the Adults' CarePoint call: **01243 642121**, or email: **socialcare@westsussex.gov.uk**. If you don't have a social worker, your health visitor (via your GP surgery) may also be able to help you.
- **West Sussex County Council's Benefit Advisor** – information and support for families of disabled children applying for benefits, including PIP. Tel: **0330 222 2569 / 07850 240874** or email: **robert.hayes@westsussex.gov.uk**.

Further information and useful links

- **Making Sense of Adult Life** – Reaching Families' handbook for parent carers of young people with SEND aged 14+ will guide you through involving your son or daughter in decisions, as well as providing essential information on PIP, further and higher education, social lives, money matters, social care, health, employment and travel. Go to: **www.reachingfamilies.org.uk** to find out more.
- **Fact Sheets** – further PIP fact sheets: *Tips for Claiming PIP*; *PIP Face-to-Face Assessments*; and *Reconsiderations and Appeals* can be downloaded from our website: **www.reachingfamilies.org.uk/factsheets.htm**.
- **Contact** – has in-depth guidance on claiming PIP, which can be found on the website: **https://contact.org.uk**, or contact their helpline: **0808 808 3555**.
- **Personal Independence Payment (PIP)** – for an overview go to: **www.gov.uk/pip/overview** or to make a new claim call: **0800 917 2222**. For general help and advice call the PIP enquiry line on: **0800 121 4433**.
- **Disability Rights UK** – has a helpful guide to making a PIP claim: *Personal Independence Payment - a guide to making a claim*, which includes the scoring system for the 12 activities. For more go to: **www.disabilityrightsuk.org**.
- **West Sussex Local Offer** – go to **https://westsussex.local-offer.org**.

