

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 young 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 most young people, the new PIP assessment process will also involve a **face-to-face meeting** with a health professional.

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**. Everyone aged 16 and over who gets DLA will be contacted, over time, and invited to claim PIP. Even young people with indefinite or lifetime awards of DLA will be reassessed under PIP.

If a claimant is nearly 16 or they are over 16 and their existing DLA award is coming to an end, they'll get a letter to tell them when and how to apply for PIP.

If the claimant is over 16 and getting DLA, and you report a change in 'circumstances', which might affect the rate of their award, they will be reassessed under PIP.

If a claimant is 16 or over and has never claimed DLA, they will need to claim PIP instead. You cannot apply for PIP until you are 16, so there are special arrangements allowing current DLA awards to run on 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.





WHAT IS PIP?

You can choose to make an application for PIP even if a claimant has an indefinite award of DLA. This would make sense where they are likely to be awarded a higher rate under PIP than their current DLA award. For example, if they have high support needs throughout the day but not at night.

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 four weeks later. If a claim is made within four weeks after the suspension, the DLA award will be restored until a decision is made on the PIP claim. If you do nothing during the four weeks suspension, a DLA claim will end permanently eight weeks after they wrote to you. There will only be limited appeal rights against this decision.

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 report 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 extra child Tax Credits in the current benefits system. As Universal Credit (UC) is rolled out, if a young person is included in their parent's UC claim, a disabled child amount will be payable in their household's award. Any household that includes someone getting PIP will also be exempt from the benefit cap.

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.





WHAT IS PIP?

Ask about

- **Blue Badge** – if you get eight points or more under the ‘moving around’ section of the mobility component of PIP, 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 PIP. There are offices in: Bognor Regis; Burgess Hill; Chichester; Crawley; East Grinstead; Haywards Heath; Horsham; Lancing; Littlehampton, Shoreham and Worthing. Tel: **03444 111 444**, email: adviceguide.org.uk or go to: www.citizensadvice.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. If your child is under 18, call the Children’s Access Point, tel: **01403 229888**, or email: cap@westsussex.gcsx.gov.uk. For over 18s call the Adult Social CarePoint: **01243 642121**, or email: socialcare@westsussex.gov.uk.
- **West Sussex County Council’s Benefit Advisor** – information and support for people applying for PIP for themselves or their children. Tel: **0330 222 2589 / 07850 240874** or email: robert.hayes@westsussex.gov.uk

Further reading 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** – for further information see the Amaze/Reaching Families’ fact sheet *Tips for claiming PIP*, which can be downloaded from our website: www.reachingfamilies.org.uk/factsheets.htm.
- **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: **0345 850 3322**.
- **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>.

