



Newsletter Summer 2012

Giving us the PIP!

Many recipients of Disability Living Allowance will have been concerned to read or hear about the changes to this now well established and understood disability benefit that has helped many thousands of severely disabled people to live less constrained lives since it was introduced in 1992. It is a tax free, non – means tested Social Security benefit that does not rely upon National Insurance contributions and because of professional help, in terms of evidence gathering, has been free of the stigma of fraud that has been associated with some other benefits in the minds of the general public.

The Welfare Reform Bill became law this year in the wake of the Comprehensive Spending Review which means that from 1st April 2013 Disability Living Allowance will be replaced by Personal Independence Payments, with the exception of children under the age of 16 years and existing recipients of Disability Living Allowance who happen to be over the age of 65 years on PIP day.

When children in receipt of Disability Living Allowance attain the age of 16 years they will be 'retested' for PIP in line with the proposed new criteria. Retesting will also apply to all those who have an 'indefinite' or 'life award' of either or both components of Disability Living Allowance, although one would hope that awards on the grounds of terminal illness will not be disturbed! At the time of writing there is no guarantee of this.

Attendance Allowance will continue to be paid to existing and new claimants over the age of 65 years, for the time being.

The legal tests for PIP awards are still subject to consultation at the second draft stage. For those who are familiar with the point

scoring system inherent in the assessment for Employment and Support Allowance the uncanny similarity will not pass unnoticed. It should also be noted that all PIP awards will be for closed periods with re-testing at regular intervals – another similarity to the inexorable attrition of ESA as you move from the Support Group to the Work Related Activity Group to Jobseekers Allowance. For PIP read People in Poverty.

PIP, PIP Hooray!

Peter Wetherell, Casework Manager



If you want to follow this up the DWP website has plenty of documents to read. It says the PIP briefing notes are intended to help people understand the Welfare Reform Act.

Why not give it a go?

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/disability/personal-independence-payment/briefing-notes>



The Rough Guide to Accessible Britain

Now that the sun has finally put in an appearance you might like to have a look at this Guide. Produced in association with Motability, it is all about enjoying great days out. If you receive the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or the War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement, you can exchange part or all of your allowance for a brand new car, scooter or powered wheelchair through Motability.

The fourth edition of the Rough Guide to Accessible Britain offers disabled people a fantastic resource with which to be confident in enjoying more of the UK's top attractions, events and destinations.

The site also contains reviews of accessible Family Days Out to view online. Every review contains all you need to enjoy a great family day out.

You can view the Guide online at www.accessibleguide.co.uk or else it can be downloaded. If you don't have access to the internet then please call Disability Cambridgeshire on 01480 839192 and we'll try to help.

Disability Rights UK

Disability Rights UK has been formed through a unification of Disability Alliance, Radar and National Centre for Independent Living on 1 January 2012. They aim to be the largest national pan-disability organisation led by disabled people.

<http://www.disabilityrightsuk.org>

The Radar Key Scheme is still running and you can order a key either through the website or by phoning 020 7250 3222.

Cambridge City Guide to Services for Older and Disabled People 2012-2014

The Friends With Disabilities group welcomed Mayor Ian Nimmo-Smith to their regular meeting at Cherry Hinton Community Centre. The Mayor took the opportunity to publicise the City Council's 2012 Guide to Services for Older and Disabled people. Disability Cambridgeshire, the Cambridgeshire User-Led Organisation and the City Council got together to update this handy, informative and free guide.



Get your copy at all City council offices, community centres and libraries or call Disability Cambridgeshire 01480 839192.

British Dyslexia Association

The British Dyslexia Association (BDA) has launched a new online learning website to help people learn about Dyslexia and how to support anyone with it. The information is allocated under sections for Parents, Educators e.g. schools, Employers and Individuals. Currently the Educators and Employers sections are under development.

The parents' module currently has two sections:

Section One is free and you can read about what dyslexia is; the role you have as parents; how to help your child with their literacy and numeracy skills and how to support your child as they grow older. There are also modules on relevant Legislation, SEN Tribunals and the BDA.

Section Two costs £10 and has a number of documents looking at specific elements: How Special Needs Support Works in Schools; Screening and Assessment; Specialist Teachers; Building your Child's self-Esteem; Positive Thinking Strategies and Study Skills.

For further information see the website www.bdadyslexia.org.uk or ring the BDA helpline 0845 251 9002.

Source: Parent Partnership Service, Spring newsletter 2012.

Disability Cambridgeshire Directory



If you have internet access remember you can find plenty of information in the Disability Cambridgeshire Directory – a searchable directory of local organisations, groups and websites

www.disability-cambridgeshire.org.uk

Contact us

Disability Cambridgeshire Advice Line:



01480 839 192

E mail: **info@disability-cambridgeshire.org.uk**

Website: **www.disability-cambridgeshire.org.uk**



Disability Cambridgeshire website includes the Resources Directory of organisations and services

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