******Grapevine disability information service**

**Information for parents and carers**

**Disability benefits:**

1. **Personal Independence Payment**
* On the **8th April 2013** Disability Living Allowance (DLA) started a **5 year long process** of being replaced with Personal Independence Payment (PIP) for those aged between 16-64 years old.
* No change for children under 16 years old – still claim DLA.
* For those living in EH postcodes the DWP should write to you about making a claim for PIP around the time of a child’s 16th birthday.
* Call to receive a copy of the claim form – 0800 917 2222.
* Make a claim for PIP within 28 days and DLA continue to be paid.

How is PIP similar to DLA?

* It is not means-tested, nor based on national insurance contributions and can be paid irrespective of employment status or whether in full or part time education.
* It has two separate components - a 'mobility component' based on your ability to get around, and a 'daily living component' based on your ability to carry out key activities in daily life.
* Those getting the enhanced rate of the mobility component of PIP can make use of the Motability scheme.
* An award of the daily living component opens the way for a carer to claim Carer's Allowance.
* There are special rules for the terminally ill.

DLA and PIP – key differences

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| --- | --- |
| **DLA** | **PIP** |
| Assessment looks at help required during the day and at night | Points based criteria based on ability to carry out activity ‘reliably’ |
| 3 rates of care component | 2 rates of daily living |
| Mobility component – threshold 50 metres for highest rate. | Mobility component looks at Moving around threshold 20 metres – however ‘Planning and following journeys’ also taken into account.  |
| No face to face assessment | Most people asked to attend a face to face assessment |
| Indefinite awards | Awards will be reviewed  |

The Reliability factor:

* Safety
* Repeatedly
* Timely manner
* Appropriate standard

Also taken into account:

* Help from other people (include physical help as well as encouragement and reminding).
* Use of aids or adaptations

Grapevine’s TOP TIPS 4 PIP!:

* **Get help to fill in the form!**
* If you are not sure about letters from DWP get advice from an agency.
* If you need an extension with the form, ask.
* Any existing documents **you want to use** can be taken into account for the assessment (e.g. prescription lists, medical letters, care plans, etc.).
* Take someone with you to the face to face assessment or request a home visit.
* Request a mandatory reconsideration within 28 days of the decision letter if you’re not satisfied with your award.
* If you child/ren are under 16 years old please contact Kindred in Edinburgh for help with a Disability Living Allowance form (see contact details at the end of the handout).
* Be prepared to persevere.
1. **Means tested benefits – Employment Support Allowance (ESA) and Tax Credits**

Choices once children reach their 16th birthday:

* Young person claim benefits and tax credits in own right OR
* Parent/guardian continue to claim benefits or tax credits that include an element for the young person if a ‘*qualifying young person’* (i.e. living at home, under 19 years old, still in full time education or approved training).
* If have an *‘appointee’* appropriate to continue with this arrangement.

(once reach 20 years old benefits parent/guardians receive will stop i.e. child benefit).

**How to claim ESA:**

ESA50 form - Limited Capability for Work Questionairre

Assessment rate: for 13 weeks after your claim. This will be:

* up to £57.90 a week if you’re aged under 25
* up to £73.10 a week if you’re aged 25 or over

Work Capability Assessment:The assessment takes into account your abilities when using any aid or appliance you would normally, or could reasonably be expected to, use.

After that, if you’re entitled to ESA, you’ll be placed in one of 2 groups and will receive:

* up to £102.15 a week if you’re in the work-related activity group (time limited)
* up to £109.30 a week if you’re in the support group (no time limits)

Can also be topped up using earnings as determining factor. For example: if you’re in the support group and on income-related ESA, you’re also entitled to the Enhanced Disability Premium at £15.75 a week.

**TOP TIPS FOR ESA:**

* Familiarise yourself with the Limited Capability for Work Assessment – Grapevine have a user friendly guide to completing the form!
* If already receiving child benefit and child tax credit – get advice from welfare advisor on your personal circumstances as to whether you’ll be better off as family unit. Online calculations: <http://www.entitledto.co.uk/>
* If receiving ESA in WRAG group only lasts for 12 months BUT you can re-claim in certain circumstances!
* Be aware of sanctions if in WRAG group and right to challenge.
* If not happy with the decision you have 28 days to request a Mandatory Reconsideration!

**Claiming ESA – 0800 055 6688**

**TAX CREDITS:**

Tax credits give you financial help if you (or your partner if you have one):

* have dependent children and your income is low and/or
* are in low-paid work of at least 16 hours a week

You must be aged 16 or over and living in the United Kingdom. There is no upper age limit.

The help for children is called child tax credit (CTC) and the help for people in low-paid work is called working tax credit (WTC). Tax credits are administered by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), not the DWP.

“Partner” means the person you are married to, or in a civil partnership with, or who you live with as if you were married or civil partners.

Working Tax Credits (WTC):

You can get WTC if you are at least 16 years old and either you or your partner are working for 16 or more hours a week, provided that you also meet at least one of the following conditions:

* you are a single parent; or
* you are a couple with a child or young person, one of you works at least 16 hours a week and you work at least 24 hours a week between you; or
* you are a couple with a child or young person and one of you works at least 16 hours per week and the other is ‘incapacitated’ (which means: in hospital or prison or entitled to carer’s allowance or getting certain sickness or disability benefits, for example ESA or DLA); or
* you are aged 60 or over, or
* you or your partner qualifies for the disabled worker element of Working Tax Credits.

Otherwise, you can only qualify for WTC if you are aged 25 or over and work at least 30 hours a week.

Child Tax Credits (CTC):

Means-tested amounts paid whether in work or not for:

* Having a family.
* Each child.
* Disability element if child registered blind or gets DLA.
* Severe disability element if child gets highest rate of DLA care component.

How to claim:

You claim both CTC and WTC on the same form, TC600, which has a booklet of notes accompanying it called Getting your tax credits claim form right (TC600 notes). You can get form TC600 from Jobcentre Plus or from the Tax Credits Helpline on 0345 300 3900 (textphone 0345 300 3909).

Who to tell:

If you are awarded benefits or tax credits you should tell Jobcentre Plus, the Tax Credit office and your local council of any changes in your circumstances that affect your entitlements. Changes of circumstances include changes to your:

* income
* hours of working
* partner moving in with you or moving out
* family circumstances, for example a child being born or leaving education

1. **Blue Badges:**

Automatically qualify if receive/d:

* Mobility Component of PIP - 8 points or more under activity 12 (Moving around) or 12 points under activity 11 (Planning and following a journey).
* Higher rate of the mobility component of the Disability Living Allowance (DLA), indefinite, but are no longer getting that allowance following an assessment for Personal Independence Payment (PIP).

May receive subject to assessment by your local authority. Important on your form you state clearly:

If child uses certain bulky equipment to get to and from the car or needs to be near a car for treatment. This is available until the child turns 4, although if the child has walking difficulties they may continue to qualify, such as:

* a permanent and substantial disability which means you are unable to walk or have very considerable difficulty in walking;
* you are registered blind;
* you are unable to walk or have considerable difficulty in walking because of a temporary but substantial disability which is likely to last for a period of at least 12 months but less than 3 years.

Taken from Scottish Government: *The Blue Badge Scheme: Parking Concessions for People with Disabilities*

Should also mention on the form:

* Aids/equipment to help you move around.
* Attendance at clinics/appointments for treatment/therapy.
* Contact with social care services.
* Ability to go out independently of support from another person.
* Use of equipment and aids.

Useful contacts for Blue Badge:

**Travel concessions**

Freepost 242

Edinburgh
EH1 0AH

**Email:** travelconcessions@edinburgh.gov.uk

**Tel:** 0131 469 3891

[www.bluebadgescotland.org](http://www.bluebadgescotland.org)

Scottish Government website: <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2007/03/28155511/1>

Local authority independent Assessment centre:
Smart Centre, Astley Ainslie Hospital, Edinburgh: tel: 0131 537 9523

1. **For further information contact details:**

**Grapevine** – disability information service covering Edinburgh, for people aged 16 and above, including parents of children who are under 16 years old. Available on 0131 475 2370 or email: grapevine@lothiancil.org.uk

**Kindred** – assistance with benefit claims for children under 16 years old. Edinburgh based, available on: 0131 536 0583 or email: kindred.enquiries@gmail.com

**Contact a Family** – national charity for parents and carers of disabled children: 0808 808 3555. Email: helpline@cafamily.org.uk

**PIP claims line:** 0800 917 2222

**DLA enquiry line:** 0345 712 3456

**Department for Work and Pensions** general enquiries line for claims: 08457 123456

### Job Centre Plus:

### **Jobseeker's Allowance** - 0845 608 8630**Income Support** - 0845 608 8630**Employment and Support Allowance** - 0845 608 8630**Incapacity Benefit** - 0845 608 8630

**Tax Credits Helpline**: 0345 300 3900

**National Insurance Contributions Office** – 0845 302 1479