

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) for young people with additional needs



in West Sussex
North South East

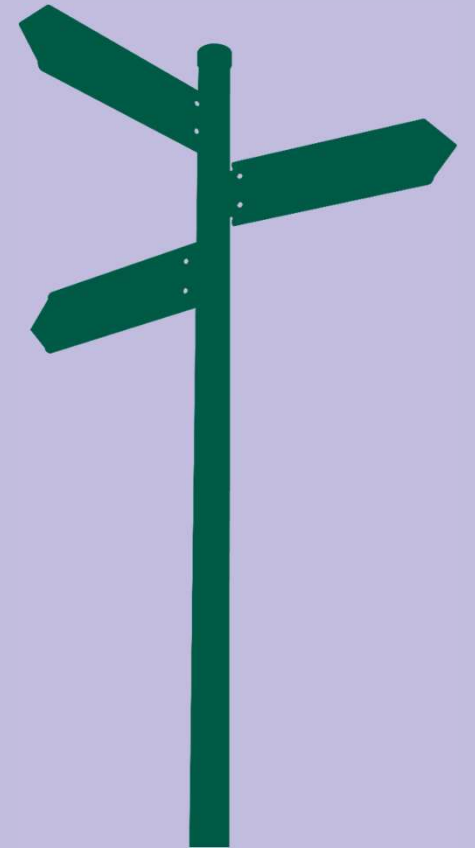


Sessions funded by
West Sussex County Council

Aim of today

To be able to explain:

- What Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is
- Ways of making a successful claim
- Where to go for more help



What is PIP?

- PIP is a non means-tested benefit
- Helps meet the extra costs for young people **aged 16 +** who have a disability or long-term health condition
- Can also top-up means-tested benefits, and “passport” to other benefits.
- Provides protection from the Benefit Cap
- Two components: daily living and mobility
- Two rates: enhanced and standard
- Award depends on how your child’s condition or disability affects them
- Must have had the condition for at least 3 months and expect to have it for 9 months. Special rules for terminally ill.

PIP Components

An award of PIP is made up of two components – **Daily Living** and **Mobility**

An award can be made in just one of these, or both. Applications can be made for both or just one.

Both components are made up of a series of activities / descriptors that guides the decision maker when deciding to award or refuse

Points based – 8 points = standard rate; 12 points = enhanced rate

An award is based on severity of impact of disability / condition to a person, which has to be demonstrated (more on this later)

PIP Activities – Daily Living

- Covers the additional cost of being disabled / long term condition associated with daily living activities
- A person's ability to carry out 10 daily living activities independently is assessed:
 - Preparing food
 - Taking nutrition
 - Managing therapy or a health condition
 - Washing and bathing
 - Managing toilet needs or incontinence
 - Dressing and undressing
 - Communicating verbally
 - Reading and understanding
 - Engaging with others
 - Managing money

PIP Activities – Mobility

- Covers the cost of disability associated with mobility
- Focuses on two activities:
 1. Planning and following journeys
 2. Moving around

Keep in mind...

When considering each activity always keep in mind whether a person can do them:

- Safely
- To an acceptable standard (good enough)
- Repeatedly (as often as necessary)
- In a reasonable time period (no more than twice as long)
- More than 50% of the time

Demonstrating need: evidence

- Supporting evidence will always strengthen a claim
- Evidence can include the following (but is not exhaustive)
 - EHCP
 - Autism/ADHD Assessment
 - Mental Health/Cognitive Assessment
 - OT assessment
 - Care Act Assessment
 - Mental health care plan
 - GP letter (cost)/consultant letters
 - NHS records
 - Statements from people who know the person

How and when to apply

- Don't have to do anything until invited by letter to claim PIP.
- There will be a number on the letter to call to request a form. You will be given the option of a paper-based form or online form.
- The online form is very straightforward and follows the same format as the paper one.
- You will need to give bank details during the first call and the DWP may want to speak with the young person (unless you are an appointee).

PIP Assessments

- The young person you care for will likely be invited to attend an assessment. Assessments are currently being carried out via the phone, video and some are face-to-face.
- However, if the evidence is good enough, they may complete the assessment based on the paperwork alone.
- You can change the date of the appointment once, but no more
- If the young person does not attend they will lose any DLA and their PIP application will not be taken any further
- Last up to an hour
- Assessor's are medical professionals eg nurse, or physio and specifically trained in disability assessments
- Encourage the young person to let you attend with them
- **Ask for the assessment to be recorded**

Why do things sometimes go wrong?

- Not enough evidence sent in
- Not given enough detail of needs
- Poor quality decision making by the DWP
- Not aware of requirements



Top Tips

- Send in accompanying evidence eg autism assessment
- Try to get statements from people who know the young person eg teacher
- Always give examples where you can of when things have gone wrong eg there's been an accident in the kitchen or someone got lost when travelling
- Complete a diary of support needs
- Take your time and try not to get overwhelmed
- Take a copy of the completed form and evidence you send
- Access support to complete the form wherever possible

Do's and don'ts of form filling

Do explain the situation in detail:

- "The young person needs help getting dressed every morning. He cannot put his arms through the sleeves of his t-shirt without my help. Every night he needs help to take off his t-shirt and to put on his pyjamas."
- "The young person needs help going to the toilet 5 times a day. She needs help removing her underwear and I have to clean and wash her after every visit to the toilet."

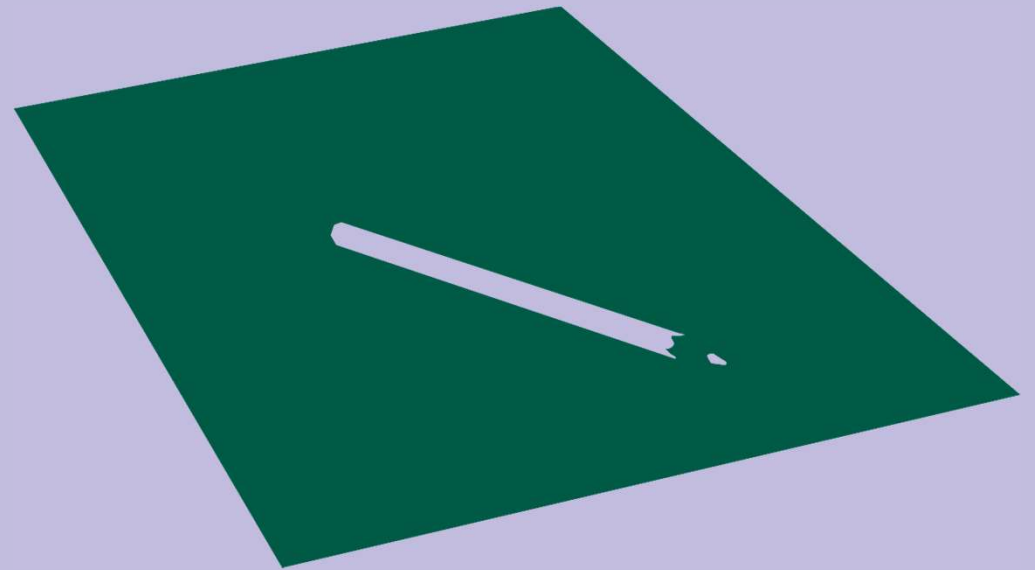
Do not be brief and not describe the situation:

- "Cannot dress himself."
- "I help my child go to the toilet 5 times a day."



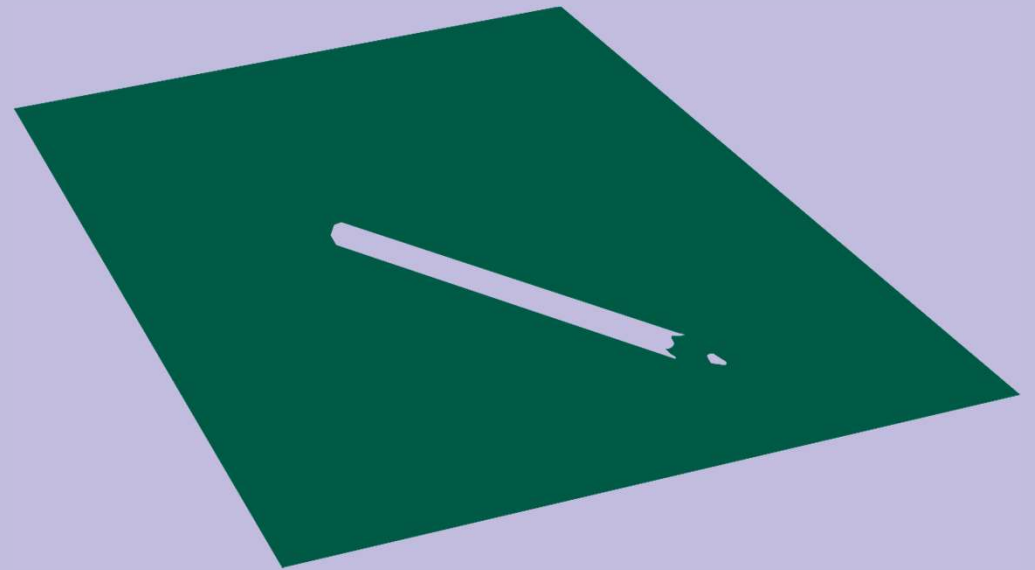
Filling in the form

- Please remember that a decision on the claim will be made by someone who has never seen the young person and who may have little or no knowledge about their condition.
- It is important that you make clear all the extra care and support that the young person needs – don't assume that the decision maker will already have this understanding.



Filling in the form

- Try to use examples and anecdotes to describe needs wherever possible. Don't just rely on the tick boxes.
- If you feel the pages don't have enough space to capture the complexity of the young person you can also attach extra pages of information.
- Write NI number and name at the top and reference the question you are referring to.
- One month deadline to return the form



What next?

The decision

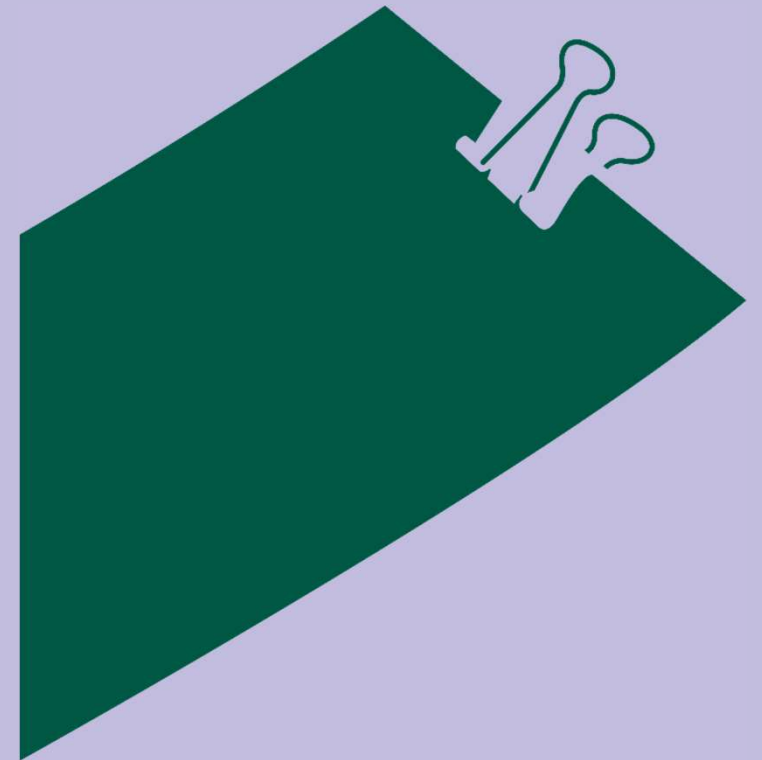
- It can take up to 5 months (sometimes longer) for a decision.
- Decision will be sent as a letter setting out the outcome - if PIP awarded - the rate and length of time
- Right to challenge it – Mandatory Reconsideration then Appeal – time limits!
- Ask DWP for a copy of all of the evidence

Are other benefits available?

- Yes!
- Both young people with disabilities or long-term health conditions, and/or their parents/carers may be eligible for other benefits
- Some young people over 16 who are too unwell to work may be able to get **Employment and Support Allowance** or **Universal Credit** but seek advice
- As a carer, you may be able to receive carer's benefits such as carers allowance, and/or means-tested benefits, if your income is low
- **Reductions in Council Tax** may apply, as well as additional benefits such as help with travel and health costs

As a parent/carer what benefits might I be eligible for?

- If the young person is awarded PIP it can positively impact on other benefits you might be entitled to
- These are known as **Passported Benefits** – where being in receipt of one benefit, entitles you to award of another
- Passported benefits linked to a young person receiving PIP include
 - **Carers Allowance,**
 - **Disabled Child Element (of UC),**
 - **Blue Badge and Motability Scheme**



Carers Allowance and Carers Elements

- You have to care for your child up to 35 hours per week and not earn more than £139 per week
- The young person has to be in receipt of PIP Daily Living (either rate) or DLA middle rate or higher rate care.
- Carers Allowance = £76.75 per week
- It might be deducted from your means-tested benefits, but you'll get an extra element or premium so you will be better-off
- You can only receive one payment of Carer's Allowance regardless of how many people you care for
- If you earn too much to receive Carers Allowance, you can still get a Carer's Element if you are eligible for UC

Disabled Child Element

- If your child is disabled or has a long-term health condition, you might be eligible for the **disabled child element** as part of your Universal Credit.
- The rate of disabled child element you get will depend on the rate of DLA or PIP you're getting for them.
- You'll get the higher rate (£456.89 a month in 2023/24) if your child is:
 - getting the DLA higher rate care component
 - getting the PIP enhanced daily living component, or
 - registered blind

Disabled Child Element

- You'll get the lower rate (£146.31 a month from April) if your child is getting any other rates of DLA or PIP.
- The disabled child element is in addition to any child element you are receiving for them
- You can get the disabled child element even if you are not receiving a child element because of the 2-child limit

Other sources of help

- **Citizens Advice in West Sussex:**
 - Further information for parent carers of children and young people with SEND: www.advicewestsussex.org.uk/advice/send-information-and-support/
 - Benefit checker: <https://www.advicewestsussex.org.uk/i-need-help/benefits/>
- **EHCP support:**
 - IPSEA www.ipsea.org.uk/
 - Local SENDIAS westsussexsendias.org/
- **West Sussex Parent Carer Forum:**
 - <https://www.wspcf.org.uk/>

Other sources of help

- **Reaching Families:**

- <https://www.reachingfamilies.org.uk/>

- **Carer's Support:**

- <https://www.carerssupport.org.uk/>

- **Blue Badge:**

- www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/parking/blue-badge-scheme-and-disabled-parking/apply-for-or-renew-a-blue-badge/

- **Disabled bus pass, companion pass and railcard:**

- https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/media/10454/encts_disabled_application_form.pdf

- **Motability Scheme:**

- www.motability.co.uk/

Thank you.
Any questions?

