

Changes to Welfare Benefits

The Government says it wants to help people who can work get jobs and support those who can't work due to severe conditions in this [information](#). You can read more about all of the changes that might happen [here](#).

You can share your thoughts on these changes until 30th June 2025. Inclusion Gloucestershire will also share their views and can include yours if you email them to info@inclusion-glos.org by 20th June 2025.

Inclusion Gloucestershire's Concerns

We are worried about changes to PIP (Personal Independence Payment). PIP helps with extra costs for disabled people. Many people who should get PIP don't get it at first but win on appeal. The process is tough, and more reassessments will make it harder for disabled people to get support.

Disabled people have been affected by COVID, the cost of living crisis, and differences in health more than people who are not disabled. We need more support, not less. Employers need to make workplaces inclusive for disabled people. We think the £1bn investment in employment support is a good idea.

We don't agree with the idea that too many people are diagnosed with mental health conditions is right. Many people wait a long time for diagnosis and treatment. The PIP changes are causing stress for disabled people and those with mental illness.

What Do the Changes Mean for Me?

Universal Credit (UC):

- Under-22s won't get the Health Element top-up.
- The top-up for new claimants will be cut from £97 to £50 per week by 2026/27.
- The top rate of UC for people who are most disabled will be cut, but the standard rate will increase by £775 annually by 2029-30.

Personal Independence Payment (PIP):

- PIP will focus on those with higher needs and remain non-means tested.
- More face-to-face assessments. Only those scoring at least 4 points in one daily living activity will get the daily living component.
- Changes apply to new claims and existing claims at their next review. People might no longer get the daily living element and other linked benefits.
- The Government will look at changes to how people claiming PIP are assessed, but changes will take time.

Work Capability Assessment (WCA):

- There will be no more Work Capability Assessment from 2028. Extra payments for health conditions in Universal Credit will be assessed through the PIP assessment, based on daily living impact, not work capacity.

- This change will be made by law and is definitely going to happen.
- Financial support from PIP and the health element of UC will not be linked to work. Work will not lead to reassessment or award review.

What Should I Do?

- Some changes are still being planned and MPs will vote on them in May.
- For people who get PIP or DLA, there will be no changes before reassessment.
- If you plan to apply for PIP, do this before the rules change.
- [Citizens Advice](#) and [Disability Rights UK](#) have helpful information on PIP assessments and challenging decisions.
- [Join](#) Inclusion Gloucestershire to be part of a strong voice for disabled people.