



Merseylink Membership



To be a member of Merseylink you must be eligible. This means that you must have certain reasons why you are right to get this service.

These reasons may be because you have

- Trouble moving around - mobility needs.
- Problems with your health - medical needs.
- Problems seeing other people - social needs.



Department
for Work &
Pensions

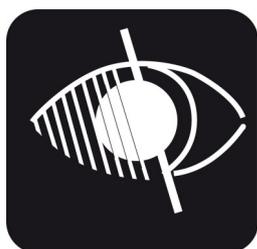


Merseytravel will manage the membership. They will ask you to show that you get certain welfare benefits that tell them that you have these needs.

This is called Automatic Membership. People who get these certain welfare benefits or are registered will automatically be allowed to be a member of Merseylink.



You must live in Merseyside to be able to use Merseylink.



What welfare benefits do I need to get?

- High rate of Disability Living Allowance (DLA). Mobility or Care part.
- High rate Attendance Allowance.
- Registered as severely sight impaired or partially sight impaired. The forms (BD8 or CV1 can be used).
- Get a War Disablement Pension (with mobility or high rate care part) or a letter of award from the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency.

Or

- You cannot hear.
- Cannot speak.
- Have a learning disability - People with a learning disability may learn, understand and communicate in different ways. A learning disability is life long and affects people throughout their lives.
- Are over 85 years old.
- Have a disease such as Cancer that means you have mobility or sight problems.
- Their application for a driving licence would be refused because of health reasons.



Department
for Work &
Pensions



Changes to Disability Benefits.

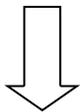
The Disability Living Allowance (DLA) will be replaced by a new benefit called the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) for new applicants from April 2013.



The PIP is for people aged 16-64. It will have a daily living part and a mobility part.

It will have two rates - Standard and Enhanced (or low and high).

DLA



PIP

People who get DLA now will be moved onto PIP in the future.

The membership for Merseylink will use PIP benefit in the future.

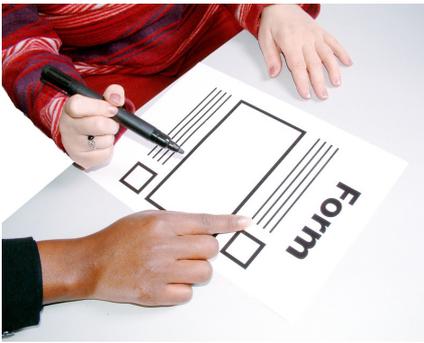
Discretionary Membership

Discretionary means a group decides if a person is right to be a member.

This is for people who do not fit into the automatic membership group.



These people may have a need to use Merseylink but not get the welfare benefits.



How will you decide?

People will be asked to fill in a questionnaire. This will ask for more details.

It will ask for information about

- Any short term or long term medical conditions.
- Any other benefits about mobility.
- Any information about problems moving around supported by a person who works in medicine or social care.
- Temporary membership for people who have a short term need.

For example people recovering from surgery, this will need to be supported by a medical or social care worker.

- A person with a social functioning disability such as Aspergers or Autism that affects their ability to use public transport.



Membership agreed

When you have been agreed for Merseylink membership this is for three years.

If this is temporary this will be less. People who already have Merseylink membership will be asked to apply within 12 months.



Membership not agreed

If you have not been agreed to be a member you can appeal.

The appeal will go to a group of people. The group will have people with different understandings and skills.

It will be an independent group that will take advice from people with

- A medical background
- Understanding of learning disabilities
- Social Workers.



The group will also have people from

- Merseytravel
- Social Services - for all the different parts of Merseyside.
- Health Services - from different parts of Merseyside.
- People from the Voluntary sector.

