

13. Supporting young people to claim PIP

This fact sheet explains how DWP will invite young people, who are approaching the age of 16 and receiving DLA, to claim PIP

From 7 October 2013 onwards, DWP will invite people turning age 16 and in receipt of DLA to claim PIP (except for those receiving DLA under the 'Special Rules' for the terminally ill – please see later in this fact sheet).

To prepare young people and families for this change DWP will write to parents or guardians of young people, who are currently in receipt of DLA, as they are approaching age 16.

At age 15 years and 7 months a letter will be sent to the parent or guardian to explain that:

- PIP replaces DLA as the correct benefit for anybody over 16 years old
- the young person will need to claim PIP at 16 years of age
- DWP will write to the young person about this to explain how, when they are 16
- if the young person makes a claim for PIP when they reach 16, DWP will make sure their DLA continues to be paid until DWP makes a decision about their PIP claim
- they need to let DWP know who to pay DLA to once the young person turns 16 and if they make a claim for PIP, while DWP makes a decision about their claim

- they should discuss the letter with the young person.

The letter will also ask whether the young person will need an appointee when they turn 16 – more details regarding this can be found later in this fact sheet.

At age 15 years and 10 months a letter will be sent to the parent or guardian to explain that the young person will shortly be invited to claim PIP at 16. A variant of the letter also repeats the questions in the previous letter if an answer has not been received.

At age 16 a letter will be sent to the young person, or their appointee, to invite them to claim PIP, it will explain:

- how to claim PIP and when by
- that if they don't claim PIP by the date given on their letter, their DLA will stop
- that their DLA will continue to be paid (even if their DLA award was due to expire) as long as they send DWP any information they ask for and go to an assessment consultation, if required.

Young Person's DLA ending between 8 April and 6 October 2013

Those whose existing DLA award ends before 7 October 2013 will be invited to reclaim DLA. Anyone reaching age 16 before 7 October will be invited to claim PIP when their next DLA award is due to end or, if this date is after October 2015, when DWP invite the bulk of DLA claimants to claim PIP.

DLA Special Rules

Those who are being paid DLA under the Special Rules for the terminally ill will be invited to claim PIP at the end of their existing DLA award; if that date is after October 2015, they will be invited to claim PIP when DWP invite the bulk of DLA claimants to claim PIP from October 2015. See [fact sheet 6](#) for more information.

Claim to PIP is made

If a young person makes a claim to PIP, their DLA will continue to be paid until DWP makes a decision on their PIP claim; when the decision on their PIP claim is made their DLA will end even if they currently have a long term or indefinite award. If the young person is awarded PIP it may be the same amount or more or less than their current DLA. This could affect other benefits that the young person, or others in their household, may receive. More information about PIP and other benefits can be found in [fact sheet 4](#)

Appointees

If a young person can't do things like tell us if their condition gets better or worse, or about changes in address or bank details and so on, another person may need to act on their behalf, as their 'Appointee'. This must be because of their illness or disability and not just because they are still a young person.

An appointee is fully responsible for acting on the young person's behalf in all their dealings with DWP. These responsibilities include:

- claiming, managing and spending benefits in a way that best serves the young person's interests (including things like fees for social care services)
- completing and signing any forms
- reporting any changes such as if the help that they need increases or decreases, or if their address or bank details change.

Acting as an appointee is a position of trust and an appointee must be aged 18 or over.

DWP will visit both the young person and the appointee to make sure they need an appointee and that the appointee understands their responsibilities.

More information about appointees is available on www.dwp.gov.uk.

More detailed information about Personal Independence Payment: www.dwp.gov.uk/pip