

ISSUE
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Benefits



The Bulletin of Warwickshire Welfare Rights Advice Service

Got a (benefits) problem
and don't know who to call?

Call WWRAS - on our new number!

024 7635 4034

WWRAS Benefit Enquiry Line is open (for frontline staff only):
Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
10am to 1pm

Note the new number (which is the old number revisited!)

- | -

We also have a dedicated *PIP.BEL* service
for members of the public who want to

challenge a PIP decision

Tuesdays and Thursdays

2pm to 4pm

using the same number

024 7635 4034

Make that call!



A service funded by

Warwickshire
County Council

DISABLED PERSONS RAILCARD

- WHO CAN GET IT?

The Disabled Persons Railcard is for people with a disability that makes travelling by train difficult.

WHAT'S IT WORTH?

You receive 1/3 off adult rail fares for travel on the National Rail network in Great Britain. If you're travelling with another adult they will **also** get 1/3 off their rail fare, so it helps friends/family too.

There are no time restrictions on the Disabled Persons Railcard, so you can use it to get a discount on tickets at any time of the day.

WHO QUALIFIES?

You will qualify if you EITHER have one of the following medical conditions OR entitlement to one of the following benefits:

MEDICAL QUALIFICATION

- have a visual impairment
- have a hearing impairment
- have epilepsy

BENEFIT QUALIFICATION

- receive Personal Independence Payments (PIP)
- receive Disability Living Allowance (DLA) at either:
 - ◆ either rate for the mobility component, or
 - ◆ the higher or middle rate for the care component
- receive Attendance Allowance or Severe Disablement Allowance
- receive War Pensioner's Mobility Supplement
- receive War or Service Disablement Pension for 80% or more disability

OR

- you buy or lease a vehicle through the Motability scheme

PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY

With your application you will need to provide the following evidence of your eligibility:

MEDICAL CONDITION

Visual Impairment

- Social Services official stamp in the space allocated on the downloadable form if applying online or on a paper application form.
- A copy of your Certificate of Visual Impairment (CVI), BP1 Certificate (Scotland) or BD8 Certificate for being registered blind or partially-sighted.

Deaf or use a hearing aid

- Social Services official stamp in the space allocated on the downloadable form if applying online or on a paper application form.
- A copy of the front page of your NHS battery book or a copy of your dispensing prescription from a private hearing aid supplier.

Epilepsy and either have repeated attacks even though you receive drug treatment; or are currently prohibited from driving because of your epilepsy.

- A copy of your Exemption Certificate for epilepsy medication and a photocopy of your prescription for drugs in line with the National Society for Epilepsy guidelines.
- A copy of your Exemption Certification for epilepsy medication and a photocopy of your DVLA letter telling you that you are unable to drive.

BENEFITS

Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

- A copy of your award letter showing receipt of DLA in the past 12 months.

PIP / Attendance Allowance or Severe Disablement Allowance or War Pensioner's Mobility Supplement or receive War or Service Disablement Pension for 80% or more disability.

- A copy of your award letter.

OR

Buying or leasing a vehicle through the Motability scheme.

- A copy of the leasing or hire-purchase agreement, dated within the past 12 months.

THE COST

1 year Disabled Persons Railcard **£20** 3 year Disabled Persons Railcard **£54**

UNIVERSAL CREDIT – UPDATE

Universal Credit began under the Coalition Government in 2010, and at February 2016 the total number of claimants was 200,000 and now the DWP have declared that Universal Credit will be **fully** rolled out by March 2021.

This means that the Government expects that, in addition to all new claimants having to claim Universal Credit, all existing claimants will have been migrated over to the 'new' benefit by that date.

The current position is that at present, in most areas, only jobseekers are able to claim Universal Credit.

However, although Universal Credit only replaces a total of six benefits, those six (quaintly named) *legacy* benefits encompass the whole range of type of claimants such as: those with long-term or temporary responsibility for a child/young person; those with care of a disabled child or disabled adult; lone parents; short-term and long-term sick; those with disabilities; child minders; foster carers; tenants etc. – and any combination thereof!

Thus the DWP have already had piloted the 'easy' claims; we await to see how the new benefit copes with those lifestyles that are likely to be a bit more complicated.



Getting the Mobility Component for the first time aged over 65

Generally speaking, once you hit your 65th birthday you've missed the bus for claiming the Mobility Component for the first time. There is one exception and it only applies to Disability Living Allowance (DLA), not Personal Independence Payment (PIP).

People who received the DLA Care Component before they were aged 65 will remain on DLA and not transfer to Attendance Allowance. There is no mobility component with Attendance Allowance.

However if the claimant can demonstrate that they would have met the conditions of entitlement for DLA Mobility before they reached 65 they may be able to review their overall DLA entitlement and have a Mobility component added. They would need to be able to show that they met the 'disability test' (i.e. distance, speed, manner of walking etc.) before their 65th birthday.

If their mobility difficulties did not manifest themselves until after they reached 65, they will not be eligible.

As ever, there is always the warning that the DWP can look at the whole claim, not just the mobility bit, so anyone considering this approach should seek advice, both to consider how to ask for the mobility component but also to check the claimant's Care Component entitlement is secure.



ASK BENEFITS BEN!

Q My partner, Esme, has been in hospital for a couple of months. I'm concerned about the impact on our benefits. She gets PIP Daily Living (enhanced) and Mobility (standard rate). I get Carers Allowance (CA), plus we get ESA and Housing Benefit/Council Tax Support (HB/CTS) as a couple.

A Once Esme's been in hospital for 28 days **all** her PIP is suspended.

This impacts on your other benefits: you can no longer claim CA, and you lose any ESA premiums that are linked to PIP or CA. Thus you will lose the *enhanced disability premium* straightaway. As you can retain CA for an extra 8 week 'run-on', the *carer's* premium will be lost if Esme is still in hospital after a total of 12 weeks.

Whilst you stay on ESA your HB/CTS won't change. But if the reduced income means you 'float off' ESA you will then need to re-claim HB/CTS from the Council.

So, despite still having most of the same outgoings as before, your income will be less. Once you know when Esme is due home notify everybody & all benefits should be restored - but keep an eye out to make sure this happens!

W.W.R.A.S. CONTACT BOX

Main office number – 024 7637 2069

Fax – 024 7637 5033

e-mail: info@wwras.org.uk

Website: www.wwras.org.uk

Charity No. 1113524

Benefit Enquiry Line – 024 7635 4034

10am – 1pm Monday, Wednesday & Friday

[Warwickshire advisers only:- NOT members of the public]

Address: 1 Stratford Street, Nuneaton, CV11 5BS

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