

Welfare Reform

Briefing

<http://advicelink.weebly.com>
Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde
April 2014



Update / Reminder – April 2014

Welfare Reform Timeline

January 2013

- **Child Benefit** withdrawn if individual income over £50,000

April 2013

- **PIP** replaced DLA. for new claims
- **Bedroom tax** - for underoccupiers in social rented sector
- **Local Council Tax Reduction schemes** introduced.
- **Blackpool and Lancashire Discretionary Support Schemes** for urgent need and care
- **Mandatory reconsideration before** appeal for Universal Credit and PIP
- Help with health costs, prescriptions and school meals for people on **Universal Credit pilots**

Summer 2013

- **PIP for new claims** - No new claims to DLA for age 16 to 64.
- **Benefit Cap** of £26,000 (£35,000p.a. before tax) - some prescribed supported accommodation exempt

Oct 2013

- **Universal Credit more pilots** (not Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde)
- **Mandatory reconsideration** and direct lodgement of appeals for **all DWP benefits** and child maintenance cases.
- **Claimant Commitment**
- **In Work Credit** and **Return to Work Credit** – no new payments

February 2014

- **DLA to PIP transfer starts in** postcodes beginning LA

Where -

- DLA award is due to end,
- people report a change in condition and
- young people reach the age of 16

DLA remains in payment until PIP decision communicated to claimant

April 2014

- **Mandatory reconsideration before appeal** begins for **Child Benefit and Tax Credits**

Looking ahead – subject to change

2014 – 2017 Universal Credit roll out

By 2017 Universal Credit will have replaced all of the following:

- Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income Support
- Housing Benefit

October 2015 Peak of **DLA to PIP** reassessments

2016 End of **Assessed Income Periods** for Pension Credit

Want to know more?

DWP Welfare Reform Story

<http://dwp.gov.uk/adviser/updates/dwp-reform-toolkit/>

There you will find toolkits:

- **Personal Independence Payment**
- **Universal Credit**

'Advice for Decision Making'

The **DWP** guidance on universal credit, personal independence payment and 'new style' JSA and ESA

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/specialist-guides/advice-for-decision-making/>

Independent Welfare Reform resources

- www.advicenow.org.uk/advicenow-guides
- www.disabilityrightsuk.org
- www.turn2us.org.uk

(You may need to paste links into your browser)

Advice Link on 01253 476843

More benefit tools on the website:

<http://advicelink.weebly.com>

funded by Blackpool Council and

The Big Lottery Fund Advice Plus Project



Reminder – There are still -

- a '**payment on account on benefit**' from the **DWP** whilst waiting for a first benefit payment - previously called interim payment **DMG Memo 6/13**
- **Budgeting advances** – like budgeting loans - from the DWP (for claimants not on universal credit)
- New and existing claims to **DLA for children under 16**
- DLA for people aged 65 and over **already receiving it**
- New and existing claims to **AA**