

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

27 MARCH 2017

MEMBERS QUESTION TIME

Question Submitted by Councillor Pam Moseley:

As people in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) transition to Personal Independence Payments (PIPs), some long term holders of Blue Badges - which give concessions as to where they may park and for how long - are finding that they no longer automatically qualify for a badge.

This is because the points requirement under PIPs relate only to the "moving around" criterion. As such, some people who find other aspects of travel difficult, such as planning a journey and finding their way, due to conditions such as autism or mental health issues, no longer qualify automatically. They are losing their previously held Blue Badges and the independence that they offer.

Although I understand that a review of this practice is to be carried out by the DfT, there is no timescale available, and Councils must work to current national guidelines. A local parent, whose daughter has been affected by the change, has set up "Parking Points Campaign" to raise awareness and effect a change to the policy and practice.

How many Shropshire residents, who have moved from DLA to a PIP, have lost their entitlement to a Blue Badge, because of the changed requirements based on mobility alone?

Answer:

For the period 01 April 2013 until 28 February 2017 there have been 9 badge holders who have had their renewal application refused based on no longer receiving DLA and who have been awarded PIP Moving Around at 6 points or less.

The dates of birth of the individuals concerned are as follows and you can see that they are sit in two broad categories.

Older Adults

05.04.1951

26.01.1955

18.05.1951

04.08.1957

03.07.1969

Younger Adults

05.08.2000

05.01.1999

02.06.1997

09.04.1997

Background

Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

People who are in receipt of DLA at the High Rate of the Mobility Component (HRMC) are automatically entitled to the parking concession providing they continue to receive this award. At present, those people over 65 years are retaining their right to receive DLA.

From 10 June 2013, all new claims from anyone **aged 16-64** were for PIP instead of DLA; this took effect throughout the whole of Great Britain.

Once a child reaches the age of 16, they will lose their right to DLA and if they wish to continue to receive a similar allowance then they are required to apply for and be assessed for Personal Independence Payment (PIP).

PIP is split into two categories:

- **Daily Living Activities**
- **Mobility Activities**

Mobility Activities is in two parts:

1. Planning and following journeys.

- a. Can plan and follow the route of a journey unaided. **0 points.**
- b. Needs prompting to be able to undertake any journey to avoid overwhelming psychological distress to the claimant. **4 points.**
- c. For reasons other than psychological distress, cannot plan the route of a journey. **8 points.**
- d. For reasons other than psychological distress, cannot follow the route of an unfamiliar journey without another person, assistance dog or orientation aid. **10 points.**
- e. Cannot undertake any journey because it would cause overwhelming psychological distress to the claimant. **10 points.**
- f. For reasons other than psychological distress, cannot follow the route of a familiar journey without another person, an assistance dog or an orientation aid. **12 points.**

2. Moving around.

- a. Can stand and then move more than 200 metres, either aided or unaided. **0 points.**
- b. Can stand and then move more than 50 metres but no more than 200 metres, either aided or unaided. **4 points.**
- c. Can stand and then move unaided more than 20 metres but no more than 50 metres. **8 points.**
- d. Can stand and then move using an aid or appliance more than 20 metres but no more than 50 metres. **10 points.**
- e. Can stand and then move more than 1 metre but no more than 20 metres, either aided or

unaided. **12 points.**

f. Cannot, either aided or unaided, – (i) stand; or (ii) move more than 1 metre. **12 points.**

For the purpose of receiving the parking concession the Department for Transport criterion is that a person must have been awarded a point score of **8 or more** as per 2c, 2d, 2e and 2f.

In England, we cannot issue a badge based on being awarded points under the 'Planning and following journeys' heading. **In Scotland and Wales, a person who has been awarded 12 points under the 'Planning and following journeys' heading does qualify for a Blue Badge.**

The only other criterion under which a person, who has lost the right to receive a badge under DLA, can re-apply is:

- Have a permanent and substantial disability, which means you are unable to walk or you have very considerable difficulty in walking.

This would not normally apply as many young adults with autistic type conditions may be able to walk well and indeed "run off".

The Central Government Department for Transport (DfT) carried out a national review of the Blue Badge Scheme with a view to extending the Scheme to people **who do not currently qualify under current legislation**. This included people with **severe mental impairments/ extremely disruptive behavioural problems**, such as those with very advanced forms of dementia **and the most severe cases of autism**, partially sighted people and those people with severe temporary disabilities. As part of this review, Shropshire Council supported the implementation of these proposals especially with regard to children/adults who suffered with severe forms of autism and adults with severe dementia type conditions, which may also result in severe behavioural difficulties, who would benefit from using the parking concession especially with regard to their safety within the community.