

Stand Up Against the Proposed Cuts to Disability Benefits

HAVE YOUR SAY.....



The Labour Government is proposing £7bn worth of cuts to disability benefits.

We need to fight and challenge these cuts which will have devastating impacts on communities here due to high rates of poverty and deprivation and ongoing trauma from the conflict.

Proposed Changes to Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

Under the new proposal a claimant will need to score at least 4 points from one of the daily living activities to qualify for the daily living component, and it will no longer be possible to qualify from combining descriptors that score less than 4 points. This does not affect the mobility component of the PIP award.

Proposed Changes to DLA – subject to consultation

The age at which a child can no longer receive Disability Living Allowance (DLA) will increase from 16 to 18, when they will be invited to claim PIP.

Proposed Changes to Carer's Allowance

The amount an individual can earn and still receive Carer's Allowance will increase from £151 per week to £196 per week, in line with National Living Wage. If the person a Carer looks after loses their entitlement to PIP, the Carer won't be able to claim Carer's Allowance.

Proposed Changes to Universal Credit (UC)

The standard allowance of UC will increase in 2026, so a single person aged 25+ would receive an additional £7 per week when compared to 2024/25.

LCWRA will be re-named the "UC Health Element".
For new claimants this will be reduced by £47 p/w.

The Work Capability Assessment will no longer exist, and a claimant's entitlement will be linked to the daily living component of PIP. Anyone who has LCWRA (prior to April 2026), and remains LCWRA following their assessment will not see their UC health entitlement changed.

We know that people may feel very worried about these changes. Please reach out to your local advice service for advice/reassurance.

Advice NorthWest: 0300 303 3650; An Cró Mór, Creggan Community Collective: 028 7141 3310 or 028 7141 4498, Dove House: 028 7126 9327; Resource Centre: [028 7135 2832](tel:02871352832). If your mental health is impacted, you can call: Samaritans NI on the freephone helpline number 116 123.

How will these benefit cuts affect us?

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Our communities will feel the impact of these cuts much more than other parts of the UK. We have more people who have long term illnesses and disability, and higher rates of mental health issues in part due to generational trauma from the conflict.

Around 217,660 people in Northern Ireland are entitled to PIP

People with non-physical disabilities, mental health issues, neuro diversities, and fluctuating conditions are at most risk of losing entitlement.

Carers will lose out. Almost 30% of carers are disabled themselves. They face a double whammy. 28.3% of NI carers already live in poverty. 59% of carers are women.

A household where one person cares for another could lose £12,060 a year or 54% of their income, if the disabled person loses PIP and, therefore, their carer loses Carer's Allowance.

People will have much less money to spend. It will be harder to meet everyday costs. More people, including children, will be in poverty.

People will feel more isolated as they will not have the money to travel or go out. Our communities will become more deprived as fewer people will have money to spend locally in shops, cafes, and other public spaces.

More people will be brought into the UC 'conditionality regime' – meaning you will be expected to look for work and more people will be at risk of getting a benefit sanction.

Stand up Against these Cuts!

We must be united in voicing opposition to these cuts. Our communities have been crushed by public service cuts, the pandemic and by the Cost-of-Living crisis.

Social security policy is devolved. This means that politicians in Stormont can make decisions to protect our communities. If these proposals are passed at Westminster, **Stormont can and should take immediate steps to protect our communities and our people.**

Tell the government you do NOT support these cuts.

Call your MP or your MLAs. Respond to the “Pathways to Work: Reforming Benefits and Support to Get Britain Working Green Paper” consultation by 30 June.

Fill out a postcard or email Consultation.pathwaystowork@dwp.gov.uk

This leaflet was produced by the NI Anti Poverty Network's Lived Experience Advisory Panel.