

Learning Disability England

Welfare Reform Consultation Activity Summary

In March 2025, a green paper called 'Pathways to Work: Reforming Benefits and Support to Get Britain Working' was published by the government.

It proposed some changes to the disability benefits PIP, Universal Credit and ESA and lots of members were (and are) feeling worried about this.

Many people and organisations worked hard to share the impact of the suggested changes to the welfare system, so the government understands what is good or bad about them.

Learning Disability England Members worked together to share their opinions and experiences to go into the Consultation Response.

We wanted to share with you what we all did together and a summary of Learning Disability England's consultation response.

Actions we took:

- Learning Disability England put out a [Public Response](#)
- We gathered stories from individuals about their experiences with PIP
- We ran a webinar with United Response and Dimensions to share information and gather opinions – you can read the slides [here](#)
- The Rep Body Wrote to Stephen Timms MP
- We gathered news and resources from members and put them on the website: [Welfare Reform Green Paper: Taking Action Together – Learning Disability England](#)
- We used all the information we gathered to complete the consultation and send in our response

Here is a summary of the consultation response with key messages from members:

- **Main Message:** People with learning disabilities want to work but need help and support that values what they can do, not systems that exclude them.
- **Against Benefit Changes:** Members strongly disagree with plans to change Personal Independence Payment (PIP) rules, saying disabled people still have extra costs whether they work or not.
- **Face-to-Face Help and Support:** People must be able to meet staff in person, not just use computers or phones, as many people with learning disabilities and their supporters face digital barriers.
- **Staff Need Training:** Government workers need proper training to help people with learning disabilities understand work and benefits.
- **Accessible Information:** All benefit information must be presented in accessible formats (like Easy Read, with audio and video options).
- **Housing Problems:** Rules about housing benefits and care costs stop people from taking jobs they've been offered.
- **Start Early:** Schools and colleges must teach young people and their families about jobs and how benefits work.
- **Who Will Lose Out:** About 7,000 people with learning disabilities could lose their PIP payments under the new rules, especially those who need less support.
- **Local Groups Help:** Putting money into local support groups helps people deal with benefit changes, and research shows every £1 spent brings back £12 in benefits.
- **Better Protection:** Any new safety measures must include people with learning disabilities and understand laws about making decisions for yourself.
- **Talk About Real Jobs:** Conversations about work should focus on what people are good at, not just pushing them into any job.
- **Make Things Fair:** Rules and punishments must take into account what help people need - you can't punish someone if you haven't given them information they can understand or provided the right support.
- **Funding Support:** Funding for support workers is vital to help people with learning disabilities stay in jobs.

- **Person-centred Approach:** Benefit rules should be based on what each person needs, not the same rules for everyone.
- **Help for Bosses:** Employers need practical local help and success stories to understand how to make workplaces work for people with Learning Disabilities, not just online information.