

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING – 24 OCTOBER 2012**

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Question by: Mr John Grigg

To: Councillor Marcus Ginn - Cabinet Member for Community Care

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**QUESTION**

'Is the Council aware that under the Government's Welfare Reform Act 280,000 people with disabilities will lose Disability Living Allowance in order to save £2bn, and are there any estimates of the number of people in Hammersmith and Fulham who will be effected, and are the council planning to investigate all means the borough can employ to alleviate suffering caused by the government's cut in services for the disabled.'

**ANSWER**

Personal Independence Payments (PIP) is planned to replace Disability Living Allowance (DLA) in April 2013 for new claims in some areas of the country. During this period new claimants in all other parts of the country will continue to claim Disability Living Allowance as now.

PIP will be introduced in Hammersmith & Fulham in June 2013.

The Council does not hold data on all residents of Hammersmith & Fulham who receive DLA, however it is aware of those receiving care from the Council.

The Reform to replace DLA with PIP will only affect people of working age 16 to 64 who after reassessment are considered able to return to work. We do not know at this stage how many if any of our users in working age will be impacted.

DLA offers no objective way of assessing entitlement, no systematic reviews and significant over and under payments. PIP will be a fairer, more objective and more consistent benefit, that is sustainable for the future and allows the UK to keep providing the support that we know many disabled people need.