



## **Personal Independence Payment (PIP)**

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is extra money to help you with everyday life if you've an illness, disability or mental health condition.

You can get it on top of Universal Credit, Employment and Support Allowance or other benefits. Your income, savings, and whether you're working or not don't affect your eligibility.

### **Eligibility rules:**

You must be aged between 16 and your State Pension age and you must also:

- need help with everyday tasks or getting around
- have needed this help for 3 months and expect it to need it for another 9 months
- usually be living in England, Scotland or Wales when you apply
- have lived in England, Scotland or Wales for at least 2 years - unless you're a refugee or an immediate family member of a refugee

There are some exceptions to these rules

### **Making a claim:**

There are 3 stages to the claim process:

1. Start your claim by calling the DWP
2. Fill in the claim form they send you
3. Go to a face-to-face assessment - most people have to do this

Making a claim for PIP can take up to 4 months from starting the application to getting your money.

### **Assessment:**

PIP is based on how your condition affects you. It's not based on your particular illness or disability, or your medication. It's very important to think about each question on the application form and provide as much information as possible. It is important to include evidence from health professionals on how your condition affects you to give you a better chance of being properly assessed.

Our experienced advisers can help you from request a claim form, fill it out, prepare for your assessment or challenge the award once the decision has been made.

**For more information or help about Personal Independence Payment, other Benefits or general advice please contact Paddock Wood Community Advice Centre at 64 Commercial Road, Paddock Wood, TN12 6DP Email: [info@pwadvice.org](mailto:info@pwadvice.org) Tel: 01892 838619**