



in Gloucestershire Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

This special edition of **Autism in Gloucestershire** is all about the Personal Independence Payment (PIP). This newsletter includes information and guidance on what PIP is, how to apply and how to get additional help for autistic people and their carers in Gloucestershire.

What is PIP?

PIP is extra money to help you if you have an illness, disability or mental health condition. You can receive it on top of Employment and Support Allowance or other benefits. If you have an income, savings or are working this will not affect whether you can apply for PIP. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is responsible for PIP.

DWP Department for
Work and Pensions

Listening Event

Your feedback



At our Autism Partnership Board, members have been saying that applying for PIP can be very difficult for those with autism. In June 2019 we held a listening event with autistic people, parents and carers. The points made were that:

- It is harder to put across the difficulties of having a 'hidden disability' rather than a physical one.
- The application form is long and the language used is complicated.
- The form does not ask specifically about sensory sensitivity or difficulties which autistic people may have.
- The face to face assessment can be stressful and can cause anxiety for individuals.

How to apply

The DWP have produced some helpful videos all about PIP; from the start of the application process through to the decision about the application.



First check if you are **eligible** to apply for PIP. The video [here](#) explains who is able to apply for PIP.

Next you will need to request an **application form**. The video [here](#) explains how to do this and what to do whilst waiting for the forms to arrive.



To **apply** for PIP, use a PIP2 Form. Have a look at what the form looks like [here](#). The video [here](#) tells you what information needs to be included to support the form.

Most people will be invited to attend a **face to face assessment**. In the video [here](#) there is more information about what will happen at the assessment and ways in which you can be supported.



The video [here](#) has more information about how you will be informed and if you want to **decision** to be reconsidered.

Where to get help and advice (local)

The Gloucestershire DWP Team

DWP
Department for
Work and Pensions

In the Gloucestershire area, there are Disability Employment Advisors that can provide advice and guidance to apply for PIP.

The Disability Employment Advisors are located in Cheltenham, Cinderford, Cirencester, Coleford, Gloucester, Stroud and Tewkesbury. There is also a Disability Adviser Lead for Gloucestershire.

To contact a Disability Employment Advisor please contact your local Jobcentre or your Work Coach who can book an appointment with them.

Read the top tips from the Gloucestershire DWP Team [here](#) of how to apply for PIP.

Citizens Advice in Gloucestershire

North and West Gloucestershire Citizens Advice provide advice to people in Gloucester, Cheltenham, Tewkesbury and the Forest of Dean. To access general advice, residents can go to a drop-in at one of 12 locations. Advice is also available by telephone on 01452 527202. For more information and to make an email enquiry go to the website [here](#).



Where you need help to **complete** a PIP form, please call the main telephone number, 01452 527202 and an appointment will be made for you. Appointments are available at locations across the 4 districts. An appointment to complete a PIP

appointment would usually take 2 hours.



For those living in Stroud and Cotswold Districts, advice is available from Stroud and Cotswold Districts Citizens Advice. They can be contacted on 0808 800 0510 (Stroud) or 0808 800 0511 (Cotswold). More information can be found [here](#).

Where to get help and advice (national)

There is lots of helpful information on the **DWP** website. There is general information [here](#) or if you prefer there is Easy Read information [here](#).



You may wish to telephone instead:

- PIP enquiry telephone line: 0800 121 4433 (Lines open 8am – 6pm)
- PIP claims line: 0800 917 2222
- Textphone: 0800 917 7777



Citizens Advice has more information [here](#).

The **National Autistic Society** has more information [here](#).



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