

### DeafPLUS Somerset Mobile Advisory Service

- Hearing aid maintenance clinics
- Equipment demonstrations
- Advice and information through our advice surgeries on the following dates and locations through May

**We are currently recruiting for a new driver/adviser for the Somerset MAS post. Which means we are operating at a reduced capacity. Advice sessions are on an appointment only basis. To make an appointment contact Stewart on 07762 848226 or email [stewart.weston@deafplus.org](mailto:stewart.weston@deafplus.org)**

9<sup>th</sup> May 11.30am-2pm Wincanton Balsam Centre, Balsam Park BA9 9HB

11<sup>th</sup> May 10am-12pm Bridgwater Hilda Coles House

11<sup>th</sup> May 12.30pm-2pm Bridgwater Gallagher Car Park

24<sup>th</sup> May 1.30pm-2.30pm Langport Ashley House, The Avenue TA10 9SA

25<sup>th</sup> May 10am-12pm Yeovil – 10-12pm – Vicarage Street Methodist Church, Middle Street, BA20 1JZ.

**For further information you can contact Stewart or follow us on Facebook Deafplus Somerset**

**Available through our website**



**deafPLUS TV on YouTube or Facebook**

**Weekly Lip-Reading classes.**

**Monday** Glastonbury – 10.30-12.30pm – Grace Church, Landmark House, Wirrall Park Road, BA6 9FR

**Tuesday** Frome 10-12pm – Frome Library, Justice Lane, BA11 1BE.

**Castle Cary** – 2.00-4.00pm – The Market House, Castle Cary BA7 7AH

Tutor [Gill.cumming@deafplus.org](mailto:Gill.cumming@deafplus.org)

**Wednesday** Ilminster – 10-12pm – Ile Community Centre, Frog Lane, TA19 0AP

Langport – 1.30-3.30pm – The Meeting Room, Langport Town Hall, Bow Street, TA10 9PR Tutor [linda.horner@deafplus.org](mailto:linda.horner@deafplus.org)

**Thursday** Burnham-on-Sea – 10-12pm – The Bay Centre, Cassis Close, Burnham-on-Sea TA8 1NN

Bridgwater – 1.30-3.30pm – Henbury Room, Westfield Church, West Street, TA6 7EU

Tutor [linda.horner@deafplus.org](mailto:linda.horner@deafplus.org)

**Thursday** Yeovil – 10-12pm – Vicarage Street Methodist Church, Middle Street, BA20 1JZ Tutor [Janet.thomas@deafplus.org](mailto:Janet.thomas@deafplus.org)

## **DWP rule changes mean some people on PIP could be owed payments of up to £12,865**

As many as eleven million people could be owed large sums of money

Millions of people in the UK on Personal Independence Payments (PIP) could be owed up to £12,865 each thanks to rule changes at the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). The DWP update affects those who are deaf or hearing impaired.

Following the tribunal ruling, from 21<sup>st</sup> August 2020, there has been a change in how the DWP considers whether someone can wash or bathe safely, as part of the PIP assessment.

If a deaf or hearing-impaired claimant is not able to hear a standard fire alarm while washing or bathing, although the risk from a fire is low, the DWP will now consider whether a visual alarm - such as an aid or appliance - is needed, or supervision if a visual alarm would not be appropriate, when washing or bathing safely.

New guidance on GOV.UK confirms that the DWP will be reviewing claims made on or after 21<sup>st</sup> August 2020, including those where PIP was not awarded.

### **Which claims are being reviewed?**

The DWP said: “We are now looking at PIP claims from deaf or hearing-impaired people who may be affected by this change. This includes reviewing some claims we decided on or after 21<sup>st</sup> August 2020, including ones where we did not award PIP.

“We are not planning to ask you to provide any further evidence or invite you for an assessment as part of this review. We will be looking at information we already have about your hearing impairment from your PIP claim.”

The DWP will not look again at your claim if:

You were awarded the enhanced rate of the daily living part of PIP continuously since 21<sup>st</sup> August 2020

A Tribunal has decided on your claim since 21<sup>st</sup> August 2020

It decided not to award you PIP before 21<sup>st</sup> August 2020

### **What happens next?**

The DWP explained: “If we review your claim, we will write to you, and you do not need to contact us. It may take some time for you to get this letter.

“If we decide that you should get more PIP, then your award will usually be backdated to 21<sup>st</sup> August 2020. If you claimed PIP after 21<sup>st</sup> August 2020, it will usually be backdated to the date you started getting PIP.”

The DWP also said that you should consider applying for PIP again if you think you may now be eligible.

The change to PIP law will apply to all new claims and has been applied to all PIP decisions since 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

### **How much could you receive in backdated payments?**

#### **PIP award turned down**

Someone who is deaf or has a hearing impairment, who applied for PIP and received no award for either the Daily Living or Mobility component, on or after 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2020, could receive a maximum backdated pay out of up to £12,865. This figure is based on someone who went from receiving no award on 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2020, to receiving the enhanced award for both components on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 and was worked out using the Benefits and Work PIP Payment Calculator.