

Appendix 3

Consultation Comments on the draft Disabled Adaptations Policy 2015

Lancashire West Citizens Advice Bureau:

Re section 6:

It may also be useful to set out, in a little more detail, how the means test is applied.

By way of introduction to the topic, our own information provides:

The financial resources of the relevant person are calculated by working out her/his average weekly income, including tariff income from capital. If the relevant person has a partner, their resources are assessed jointly. Where the relevant person's financial resources exceed the applicable amount, a staggered taper is applied to the excess amount to work out the sum by which the grant is to be reduced.

[AdviserNet 11.8.22.5 para 51]

Re section 12.2:

It may be useful to add that:

In addition to these definitions, someone aged 18 or over is considered disabled for the purpose of entitlement to a disabled facilities grant if s/he is:-

- *registered as disabled under the National Assistance Act 1948; or*
- *a person for whom welfare arrangements have been made, or could be made, in the opinion of social services, under the National Assistance Act 1948.*

[AdviserNet 11.8.22.5 para 10]

Once again, this excerpt is taken from our own information systems.

Re section 35:

Your dispute resolution section is both welcome and reasonable.

Matthew Astley and Guy Simpson
Lancashire West CAB
21.08.2014

Disability Advice West Lancashire:

Our Charity deals with a great many disabled who from no fault of their own are having to turn to DWP to apply for financial aid. A large amount are being denied this support. It would be beneficial to both you and the community if these grants are made more accessible to the sick and disabled. I know that there are financial restrictions being enforced that are draconian but the community in order to prosper and grow needs this support.

Lancashire County Council Occupational Therapy Service:

- 1.2 Suggested the phrase 'able to remain at home' is included in the paragraph.
- 2.4 Change 'should be provided free of charge' to 'maybe provided free of charge'.
- 5.4 FACS is not used to assess a disabled person so reference to it should be removed.
- 10.1 Bullet point 3, needs to refer to children as well and add 'based on current OT criteria document'.
- 13.1 Para should also refer to disabled children.
- 13.4 Remove reference to FACS, insert following prioritisation guidelines.
- 13.6 Stated OT's always recommend most cost effective option and where something exceptional is needed, will provide info as to why.
- 13.7 Change to 'best practice to carry out joint visits, encouraged at early stages.
- 18.0 Making the dwelling safe: take out bullet point 1

Facilitating access to bathing facilities: remove reference to provision of a specialist bath
- 20.2 Amend to where possible/reasonable.
- 20.4 Access to both sides of the bed is a priority.
- 24.0 Stage 2 – Add in reference to joint visit.
- 25.1 Suggested we change wording and remove the word cannot.
 - Suggested we check DFG application forms for any reference to war injured or those claiming compensation for injury leading to disability