

Bromley Mencap's Message to the Government



Incorporating Bromley Scope

What we think about the questions



What is this document about?



This is what Bromley Mencap thinks about the Government's Pathways to Work plan and the questions they asked.



We worked with disabled people, carers, professionals and our employment team to write this.



People with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, autistic people, and carers shared their views.



What did the government ask?



The government asked questions about health and disability benefits.



Health and disability benefits are extra money people can get. The money comes from the government.



It helps to pay for things you might need or extra costs you might have because of your disability or health condition.



The government told people about the changes they want to make in their green paper.



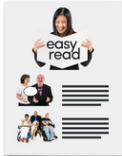
The government asked questions to find out what people think about their plans.



Problems with what the government asked



We believe the Government's questions are not fair and are confusing.



Easy Read and accessible versions came out one month late.



Many disabled people could not take part properly because:

- It was too fast
- It was too long
- It was too complicated



One of our advisors said:

“This is too complicated for many of our clients...

It feels like the DWP want it this way so it's easier to make changes.”



The biggest changes were not properly explained



The government does not ask about the big changes like:

- Making PIP harder to get
- Linking Universal Credit support to PIP



The government treats PIP like a payment for people who are not working.

But PIP is a payment for the extra costs of disability. It is not to do with work.



Taking PIP away might mean:

- People can't afford travel or medicine
- People lose their independence
- People don't have enough money



They want to only give Universal Credit money for health to people who get PIP.

This is not good. People who don't get PIP any more might not get support for health.



How do people at Bromley Mencap feel about the changes?



People feel worried.



Many people we support have told us they feel:

- Frightened
- Distressed
- Overwhelmed
- Unsure about their future



These are not small changes.

The changes could be bad for

- People's health
- People's daily life
- People's futures



What we want to see



We agree that more disabled people should be supported to work.



But this must be done kindly and with proper support – not by taking away benefits.



People should be helped in a way that works for them. Not forced.



Support should be fair, based on trust, and planned with disabled people.



The timing is worrying



The government have asked questions about their plans.



The government said they want people to give their answers by monday 30 June 2025.

But they have already written new rules and shared them with Parliament.



They plan to read the new rules again on Tuesday 1 July 2025.



The consultation ends just one day before. This means they won't have time to add our answers to the new rules.



This makes it feel like the Government is not really listening.



Our hope



We hope our answers help the Government to know how their plans might be bad for real people.



Our response includes:

- Real quotes
- Lived experience
- Expert insight



Big changes like this must be fair.

- They should be about disabled people's rights.
- They should not be about just saving money.



Signed by:

Steve Barnes

Temporary Chief Executive Officer,
Bromley Mencap