

## **WRITTEN MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011**

### **THE DEPARTMENT FOR WORK AND PENSIONS**

#### **RETENTION OF MOBILITY COMPONENT IN RESIDENTIAL CARE**

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Maria Miller).** The Government are today announcing that the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance will not be removed from people living in residential care homes and that the mobility component of Personal Independence Payment, which will replace Disability Living Allowance, will also be payable at both the standard or enhanced rate to people in residential care homes provided they satisfy the entitlement conditions.

In the Spending Review 2010 it was announced that, from October 2012, the Disability Living Allowance mobility component would be withdrawn from people in residential care homes after 28 days. Our aims have always been to ensure not only protection of public funds but also that disabled people who live in residential care homes retain their independence and are not prevented from getting out and about.

In response to concerns raised about this proposal, the Government announced that it would not remove the mobility component from people in residential care homes from October 2012 and that it would look again at the underlying evidence and gather more, before reaching a final decision on the way forward for the new Personal Independence Payment. We have now gathered and reviewed further evidence, including the helpful contribution provided by Lord Low's review. Although this does show that the issue of mobility needs for people in residential care homes presents a complex and varied picture there was insufficient evidence of overlaps in funding provision to justify the withdrawal of the mobility component.

Having listened to the concerns raised and carefully considered the evidence the Government will now table an amendment to the Welfare Reform Bill for consideration at Lords Report stage to remove the provision which allows for withdrawal of the mobility component of Personal Independence Payment from residential care home residents