The Timms Review: Key Takeaways and Next Steps

Plain text version of the Policy Connect slides

Policy Connect

This document contains the full text of Policy Connect's slides on the final report of the Timms Review of Personal Independence Payment (PIP). It is provided as an accessible alternative to the graphic version.

Slide 1: The Timms Review: Key Takeaways and Next Steps

What the recommendations for PIP reform could mean for the future of disability support.

Slide 2: The Timms Review of PIP: Final Report Published

This Tuesday, Disability Minister Sir Stephen Timms published the final report of his review of the Personal Independence Payment (PIP). It was co-produced with disabled leaders and heard from more than 40,000 people and organisations across the UK.

PIP is a non-means-tested, non-taxable benefit. It helps people with long-term disabilities meet the extra costs of daily living and mobility, whether or not they are in work. It currently supports around 4.1 million people in England and Wales.

Slide 3: Short-term Recommendations: Improving PIP Now

In the short term, the Review recommends simpler application forms, reasonable adjustments recorded on a "tell us once" basis, and better access to independent advocacy.

It also recommends fewer unnecessary award reviews for people with lifelong or degenerative conditions, and fast-track decisions for people with serious, well-evidenced conditions. Ministers have already accepted these two recommendations.

Slide 4: Long-term Recommendations: A Reformed PIP

In the longer term, the Review proposes replacing the points-based assessment with a new impact assessment. This would look at how a condition affects someone's daily life, including their needs, intended outcomes, barriers and extra disability-related costs. Claimants would not need to calculate their costs or provide receipts.

It also proposes optional referrals to local health, social care and employment support services, without making engagement a condition of receiving or retaining PIP. The Review does not recommend across-the-board cuts. Instead, it proposes reshaping eligibility within existing spending forecasts.

Slide 5: Our Accessibility Team's Response

> Our team welcomes the publication of the Timms Review's final report and recommendations. The Review commits to putting the experiences of disabled people and people with long-term health conditions at the centre of welfare reform. It also recognises that PIP provides vital financial support, helping people manage the additional costs of disability and participate in daily life.
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> The emphasis on making PIP assessments more accessible, reducing unnecessary reassessments, and recognising the importance of cash support is particularly welcome. The challenge now is to ensure that the Review's recommendations are translated into meaningful and practical change.
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> Going forward, the Government must work with disabled people, support organisations and frontline services to ensure that PIP reform is fair and person-centred. This will be essential to rebuilding trust in the process and ensuring that PIP works for the people who rely on it.

Abigail Chapman-Miller, Project Coordinator, Policy Connect

Slide 6: Comparison with the Milburn Review

The Milburn Review, published last week, examined young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) and takes a different approach to PIP reform. It proposes abolishing PIP for under-25s and replacing it with an Additional Cost Allowance, a Health and Disability Fund, and Severe and Complex Needs Insurance.

For young people able to engage in work, education or training, Milburn proposes a new Youth Allowance, conditional on engagement with employment and wider support services.

Slide 7: What Comes Next

The Government will consider both reviews together ahead of a Welfare Reform White Paper, expected in early 2027.

Any reforms that link financial support to employment services must account for the barriers that can make participation difficult. These include inaccessible transport and workplaces, gaps in health and social care, and fluctuating conditions.

Disabled people, their representative organisations, and frontline services should continue to be a part of the decision-making processes that shape the reforms.

Slide 8: Further Information

Read our full insight into the Review at policyconnect.org.uk.

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