



## Your Voice Network Meeting Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2022

### Who came?

	<b>Your Voice</b>		<b>Devon County Council</b>
	<b>Inclusion Gloucestershire</b>		<b>Devon People First</b>
	<b>Citizen Checkers</b>		<b>People First Forum</b>
	<b>WSUN</b>		

### What did we talk about?



We said 'hello' to everyone.

The icebreaker question was 'What is your favourite sandwich?'



Judy from DOSH talked about benefits.

People can look at the presentation to find out more.

People can email Judy to ask more questions.

People asked questions about the benefits system.

Judy said it is important to tell the people who give you benefits if your needs change, like if you can't work.

One person said it was good that when you get PIP because it can help you get a railcard.

One person asked about getting a car or scooter with the Motability scheme. Judy said you can only get access if you get the enhanced PIP.

People said it is a complicated system.



Someone asked if there is an Easy Read guide to PIP and DLA. Judy said she didn't think so.

People said an Easy Read guide would be really useful.



Judy said when you apply for PIP, people need to tell them about what things are like on a bad day for you. Some people don't like to say what they can't do.



People can go to Citizens Advice to ask for help filling in the application forms.

People can come to DOSH, but they might need to pay a small amount of money.



Judy said sometimes when you fill out the PIP forms, they will want to talk to you and check what you are saying.

Sometimes PIP will say 'no'. If you have a letter that says you haven't been awarded PIP, you can still argue with them.



Someone asked how much notice you will get for a PIP reassessment?

Judy said they give you about 6 months to reapply.

Judy said when you get the letter, it tells you to ring PIP to start the process. You **have to** phone them or write a letter.



Judy talked about Universal Credit. This is online, and you need to log on and write in your journal.

There is a phone number for people who can't go online, but it can be very slow.



One person said that there are lots of long waiting times on the phone when trying to speak to someone about PIP and ESA.



One person said they were told they owed money to DWP.

Judy said if your savings change, you must write and tell the DWP. They are allowed to take money back if they have overpaid you



People said the Christmas bonus has stayed the same for many years but everything has gone up in price. People think the DWP should look at it again.

Judy told us about lots of grants people might get this year.

One of them is a council tax rebate. If you pay by direct debit you will get this automatically.

If you don't pay by direct debit, you will get a letter – or you might have to do an online assessment. Judy said not to wait, but to go to your council website and find out how to apply.

Everyone will get £400 of Energy Bill support in the Autumn. They will put it in your account, if you pay by direct debit.

If you don't pay by direct debit, it might be good to call your energy company and ask about it.



We had a quiz that Lloyd made.



## Dates for the diary

Coffee Morning –

Thursday 23rd June - 11am

Network meeting –

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 12.30 - 2pm