

**MYTH
BUSTERS**
DISABILITY
● THE MYTHS / THE FACTS

Sound familiar? We hear a lot about so-called disability benefit cheats in conversation and the media.

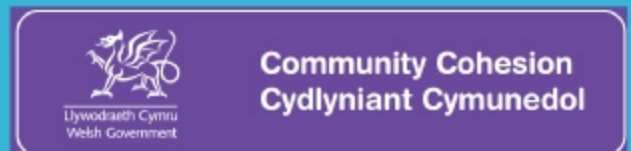
There are a number of myths and misconceptions about disabled people and the benefits they claim such as:

- "Disabled people get it all; they get everything handed to them on a plate."
- "Everyone on disability benefits gets a free car."
- "If you're disabled, you're disabled – you can't be in a wheelchair one day and not the next."
- "People on disability benefits are rich, they get loads of money."
- "Disabled people look disabled."

FACT

In fact, figures from the Department for Work and Pensions show that over 99.5 per cent of people claiming Disability Living Allowance (DLA) are genuinely entitled to receive it. They need it to live, work and support themselves.

WAR ON WELFARE
THIEVES SCROUNGERS
"BENEFIT PEOPLE ON DISABILITY BENEFITS ARE JUST LAZY, WORK-SHY SCROUNGERS"
"TAKE US FOR A RIDE"
"SCROUNGING SCUMBAGS STEALING OUR CASH"
WELFARE FRAUDSTERS
"ARE ROLLING IN IT"



1

Caroline is 27 and has fibromyalgia. Caroline receives £72.40 DLA per week.

Caroline's condition causes a lot of pain and leaves her feeling tired and weak, making it difficult to concentrate. Some people have called Caroline a 'fake' because her condition fluctuates – she is able to walk some days but needs to use her wheelchair on others. She pays someone to help with daily tasks like running a bath and cooking. Caroline has had to finish work and would be unable to eat or keep warm without her benefits.

2

Neil is 19 and needs full time care as he is severely affected by cerebral palsy. Neil receives £131.50 DLA per week.

Neil lives with his parents and uses an electric wheelchair. His DLA supports his daily care and adaptations required for his home. Neil and his parents paid a large contribution for his car which has been adapted to take his wheelchair as his DLA doesn't cover this. This has allowed him to enjoy a social life. Neil would love to work but hasn't had the opportunity.

3

The cost of living is often higher for people receiving DLA. Some of the additional costs can include:

- Having to buy equipment such as hoists, stairlifts and screen reading software to be able to complete a variety of everyday tasks.
- Increased heating and electricity bills through running specialist medical equipment.
- Communication support, such as British Sign Language (BSL) interpreters.
- Buying special foods due to specific dietary requirements.

To read the real-life stories in full, please visit the equalities pages of Bridgend County Borough Council's website: www.bridgend.gov.uk

For more information and advice on disability benefits please visit :www.dwp.gov.uk
Personal Independence Payment (PIP) was formerly known as Disability Living Allowance