

Update



Autumn - Winter 2019



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Christmas Trip



A bus trip has been organised to visit St George's Market and the Belfast Christmas market on **Tuesday 10 December 2019**.

The bus will depart from our former WAVE Office at 23A Bishop Street at **10 am sharp**. There will be pick-up at Drumahoe car park and Dungiven on our way through.

This is a yearly trip not to be missed and is always well attended. It will give you the opportunity to start your Christmas shopping, and is an enjoyable day out for all.

It is essential that you register your name with the office as soon as possible as spaces are limited.

Please note that we will be leaving Belfast at 3.45 pm and stopping off at the Elk Restaurant for dinner and then returning home by approximately by 7pm.

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Public consultation on 'Troubles related incident Victims' payment scheme



'Following years of lobbying by the Injured Group at WAVE Trauma Centre, the NI Office have released a public consultation on a legal framework for a 'Troubles related incident Victims Payment Scheme'. We would encourage victims/survivors to have their say on this important issue before the **deadline of 25th November 2019**. Many of our clients will ask - are the bereaved eligible?

The answer is possibly under 'psychological injury' however there are a number of conditions that are being proposed. This is your opportunity to have your say on the issues around this, and who should get the payment.

When the Consultation process is complete the Government will draw up the regulations to implement the scheme. This won't be until spring 2020. The Government would welcome feedback from anyone with an interest or view on the proposed shape of this reform, addressing the specific questions listed throughout the consultation document. You can provide your feedback on the proposal by completing an online survey at: <https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/nio-implementation-team/vpconsultation-1/consultation/intro/> or the preferred method of receiving your response is via the online electronic consultation questionnaire. If you provide your response online you can give your answer straight away, pause

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and return to your response later (as long as you reply within the deadline set) and you need not respond to all of the questions to submit your response. You can also submit your response anonymously.

Alternatively, you may complete the response form found alongside the consultation document. If possible, the NIO would like this form to be returned electronically as an email attachment. The email address for responses or queries is: vpconsultation@nio.gov.uk

A hard copy of the consultation document, and the corresponding response form is available on request, using the email address provided above. Postal responses can be sent to: Victims Payments consultation, Northern Ireland Office, Stormont House, Stormont Estate, Belfast, BT4 3SH.

Check when your PIP award is ending!



It is important for recipients of Personal Independence Payments (PIP) to clarify when their award will end, as the system for 'renewal' is very different from that of the old

Disability Living Allowance (DLA). Under DLA, 6 months before an award is due to end, claimants are sent a 'renewal form.' This provides the Department time to assess the new award and make a decision before the current award ends. PIP is different, how you 'renew' your claim depends on the 'type' of award you receive which will be one of the following:

1. A short term award of PIP is where no review date is set by the Department as there is a likelihood of improvement in the condition. **These clients will not be sent a PIP renewal form.** Instead, 14 weeks before the current PIP award is due to expire they will receive a letter notifying them that their award is coming to an end and advising them that they can make a new claim if they wish. It is then up to the client to make a new telephone claim for PIP. A new PIP2 form will be issued for the claimant to complete and it is likely they will have to undergo a medical assessment.

It is extremely important to make the telephone claim as soon as you receive the letter, because it will take up to 3 months to process your new claim. If you wait until your PIP award ends, you will have to wait for the processing of your claim, your payments will stop and this could affect extra premiums on your other benefits. There is no guarantee that you will receive PIP again. You can make a new claim sooner than 14 weeks – up to 6 months in advance of your claim ending. However please

note that the decision on the new claim for PIP could impact the remainder of your current award decreasing; increasing or stopping it altogether depending on the decision.

2. The second type of award has a review date set as it is expected that the claimant may need future support on consideration of the following factors: the chronic nature of the condition, medication, history of the condition. These cases can be identified by checking page 2 of the PIP award letter under "Making sure the PIP you get is right," and will state that the award will be reviewed 1 year before the end of the ward. 1 year- 6 months before the expiry of the award, claimant's will automatically be sent a shortened version of the PIP2 form to complete. They may or may not have to undergo another medical assessment. If the form is not completed, a reminder letter to return it will be issued.

It is important to check which of the two types of PIP award you have and act promptly to ensure that payments are not disrupted where you continue to meet the criteria for an award of Personal Independence Payment.

Please note: If your condition improves before the review date and you require less care and/or mobility assistance you must report this otherwise you could be overpaid and prosecuted.

BEDROOM TAX

WAVE Trauma Centre has joined a broad coalition of organisations concerned about the cessation of the current welfare reform mitigations in Northern Ireland.

The 'Cliff Edge NI Coalition,' is calling on the government to extend welfare reform mitigation payments which are set to run out in March 2020. The welfare reform mitigations package was agreed at the NI Assembly in 2015 to protect Northern Ireland benefit claimants from the full impact of extensive welfare reforms such as the effects of migrating from DLA to PIP, and the effects of the Bedroom tax when it was introduced to Northern Ireland on 20th February 2017. However, this protection is set to end from April 2020 when over 34000 NI tenants will have to pay the bedroom tax unless further mitigations are put in place by the government.

What is the bedroom tax? The bedroom tax is a reduction in Housing Benefit for people who live in a property that is owned by NIHE or a Housing Association that is too large for their household. Its proper name is the "social sector size criteria", but most people call it the "bedroom tax". It will only affect those under pension age.

The Welfare Advice Team at WAVE Trauma Centre are particularly concerned about the effect of the

Bedroom tax at a time when the government is intending to migrate those on income based benefits under pension age onto Universal Credit between 2020 and 2023. The design and payment delays in the Universal credit system, combined with the bedroom tax mean that many people will struggle financially and face rent arrears. The effect of Brexit on food and utility prices is another uncertainty.

Our advice in the run up to Christmas is to be realistic about what you can afford to spend, and try to avoid getting into debt which has to be repaid next year. Repaying debt will be really difficult if housing benefit or Universal credit is cut. Now is the time to try and put some money aside, however small each week due to the pending uncertainty, although we recognise that this will be extremely difficult if not impossible for low income households."

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Watercolours Art Class



We currently have a Watercolour's Art class running since September for 12 weeks in total, up until 25 November, facilitated by Leona Devine. This class gives clients an

opportunity to meet every Monday morning, to enjoy a chat while creating great artistic pieces, develop confidence, self-esteem, greater assertiveness, a better life balance and peace of mind, and building friendships.

The aim of the project is for clients to produce an array of vibrant landscapes and prominent buildings, throughout the North West which holds meaning for clients, to be displayed on walls within our office.

If you are interested in being part of this group, please come along on a Monday morning, or speak to staff for your name to be added in future programmes run by WAVE.

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New project Digital Fabrication at Fab Lab at Nerve Centre 2020



The FabLab is a digital fabrication laboratory which was set up to inspire people and entrepreneurs to turn their ideas into new products and prototypes by giving them access to a range of advanced digital manufacturing technology. We envisage that this will take place in February 2020 so if you feel this would be of interest to you, **please make contact with Jonathan to register your interest on 028 71266655.**

Fundraising...

Tesco bag packing



Please support WAVE by raising much needed funds at our bag packing exercise at Tesco's, Quayside Shopping Centre on **Sunday 15 December 2019 from 1pm – 6pm. Please contact our centre to register your interest in helping out as it would be greatly appreciated on 028 71266655.**

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Coffee morning



We are holding a coffee morning on **Monday 2 December 2019 from 10.30am-12.30pm** to assist in raising funds for our organisation. Clients will get the opportunity to savor the many homemade treats as well as have the chance to enter into a draw where there will be an array of fantastic raffle prizes on offer! We look forward to seeing you there.

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Volunteer Appreciation Evening



This will take place on **Monday 25 November 2019 at 5 pm which is solely** for those clients who have supported WAVE throughout 2019 by volunteering their assistance.

There are many reasons for getting involved in volunteering, such as meeting new friends, learning something new, giving something back, to assist with getting a job, building self-esteem or to try something different.

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Our office would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and peaceful New Year and we look forward to welcoming you in 2020!



'Intergenerational Trauma' course:



This course will commence on **Tuesday 21 January 2020 and run for 4 weeks from 10am – 4pm.**

It is designed to meet the needs of individuals who wish to gain a greater understanding of intergenerational trauma. The course will explore the development and impact of intergenerational trauma, especially within the context of post-conflict societies. 10 CATS Points (Level 1). It costs £125.00. You must register directly with Queen's University.

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Centre closure over Christmas



Our centre will be close on **Monday 23rd December and reopen on Thursday 2 January 2020**

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Derry Londonderry Centre opening hours



**Monday - Thursday: 9 am - 5 pm
Friday: 9 am - 4.30 pm**

Our Centre closes for **lunch between 1 pm – 2 pm** so you will have no access to our building during this hour.