

Welfare Reform and Work Bill

AMENDMENTS
TO BE MOVED
IN COMMITTEE

Clause 4

THE EARL OF LISTOWEL
BARONESS GREY-THOMPSON

[In substitution for the fourth amendment in the name of the Earl of Listowel on sheet HL Bill 69(e)]

Page 4, line 38, at end insert—

- “(e) the percentage of children living in households where—
- (i) equivalised net income for the financial year is less than 60 per cent of median equivalised net household income for the financial year;
 - (ii) equivalised net income for the financial year is less than 70 per cent of median equivalised net household income for the financial year and who experience material deprivation;
 - (iii) equivalised net income for the financial year is less than 60 per cent of median equivalised net household income for the financial year beginning 1 April 2010, adjusted in a prescribed manner to take account of changes in the value of money since that year; and
 - (iv) equivalised net income has been less than 60 per cent of median equivalised net household income in at least 3 of the survey years.

- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1)(e)(iv), the survey years are the calendar year that ends in the relevant financial year, and the 3 previous calendar years.”

Page 5, line 16, at end insert—

“A1AE Child poverty and life chances

The Secretary of State must publish and lay before Parliament a report setting out the measures that the Secretary of State proposes to take to reduce child poverty and improve children’s life chances, with reference to the measures in sections A1A to A1AC.”

Clause 4 – continued

Page 5, line 16, at end insert –

“A1AF Target for eradication of child poverty

- (1) The Secretary of State must by regulations specify a target for the eradication of child poverty in the United Kingdom.
- (2) For the purposes of this section –
 - (a) “child poverty” must be understood with reference to the measures in section A1A(1)(e); and
 - (b) the meaning of “eradication” shall be set out in regulations.”

Clause 9

LORD MACKENZIE OF CULKEIN

Page 11, line 34, at end insert –

- “() For each of the tax years ending with 5 April 2017, 5 April 2018, 5 April 2019 and 5 April 2020, the amount of the support group component of Employment and Support Allowance is to be up-rated in accordance with part X of the Social Security Administration Act 1992 (review and alteration of benefits) plus an additional sum equal to the difference between the value of the basic allowance of Employment and Support Allowance as subject to subsection (1) and what the value of the basic allowance of Employment and Support Allowance would have been had it been adjusted for inflation.”

Clause 11

THE LORD BISHOP OF PORTSMOUTH

Page 13, line 11, at end insert –

- “() the child is in the household as a result of a kinship care or private fostering arrangement, or”

Clause 12

THE LORD BISHOP OF PORTSMOUTH

Page 13, line 23, at end insert “unless the children are in the household as a result of kinship care or private fostering arrangement.”

After Clause 13

LORD LAYARD

Insert the following new Clause –

“Employment and support allowance: persons with a mental and behavioural disorder as a primary medical condition

The Secretary of State shall ensure that any person awarded employment and support allowance who has a mental and behavioural disorder as a primary medical condition is, on being registered for that allowance, immediately offered assessment and treatment in the local services for Improving Access to Psychological Therapies or in step 4 mental healthcare, as appropriate.”

After Clause 15

LORD LOW OF DALSTON

[In substitution for the amendment on sheet HL Bill 69(e) incorrectly printed as “After Clause 5”]

Insert the following new Clause –

“Safeguarding of vulnerable claimants: guidance

- (1) The Secretary of State shall issue statutory guidance for the safeguarding of vulnerable claimants in relation to any sanction, reduction of benefit, or disallowance of benefit (“the guidance”).
- (2) The guidance shall incorporate all relevant provisions and operational protocols contained in the following Departmental operating guidance –
 - (a) procedural guidance within the Labour Market Conditions Guide;
 - (b) universal credit guidance for agents;
 - (c) Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) guidance for Jobcentres;
 - (d) ESA operational guidance for benefit delivery centres;
 - (e) ESA Incapacity Reference Guide;
 - (f) Core Visits Guide;
 - (g) Work Programme guidance;
 - (h) guidance for health professionals.
- (3) The guidance shall specify –
 - (a) indicators of vulnerability and procedures for identification of vulnerable claimants;
 - (b) situations which may demonstrate good cause for inability to participate in a work-focused interview, undertake work-related activity, or attend mandatory Work Programmes or back-to-work schemes;
 - (c) where claimants must be referred for a Core Visit conducted by a DWP Visiting Officer;
 - (d) how to support claimants with additional or complex needs;
 - (e) liaison arrangements with mental health services where claimants are mental health service users;
 - (f) collaborative approaches through which DWP can work with independent advice and support bodies in assisting such claimants;

After Clause 15 – continued

- (g) who is responsible for ensuring that the guidance is complied with.
- (4) “Vulnerability” and “vulnerable claimants” shall be taken to refer to individuals who are identified as having complex needs or requiring additional support to enable them to access DWP benefits and use DWP services.
- (5) Complex needs may refer to difficult personal circumstances, life events, or health, disability or incapacity conditions that affect the ability of individuals to access DWP benefits and services.
- (6) In issuing the guidance the Secretary of State shall ensure consistency of definitions, terminology and language in the guidance.
- (7) The Secretary of State shall ensure that consistent principles, good practice and fairness in safeguarding procedures is applied across all types of benefit claims, including Jobseeker’s Allowance claims, and by all agents involved in the assessment and administration of benefits.
- (8) The Secretary of State shall report to Parliament annually on the application of the guidance.”

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