

Croydon Council – Fact Sheet for residents applying for a Blue Badge

Eligibility Criteria – Hidden (non-visible) disability – difficulty undertaking a journey

NOTE – this category is for Blue Badge applications only

If you have a disability or condition that is hidden (or “non-visible” (or hidden) which causes you to severely struggle with a journey between a vehicle and your destination, you may qualify for a Blue Badge.

Note – hidden disabilities giving considerable difficulty whilst walking reflects that, for some people with hidden (“non-visible”) disabilities, problems occur when they are walking during the course of a journey, rather than as a direct result of the physical act of walking. The purpose of issuing a Blue Badge should be to enable you to undertake journeys that would not otherwise be possible, or which are only possible with very considerable difficulty.

Some examples of such disabilities / conditions include:

- Makes you at risk when near vehicles, in traffic or car parks
- Makes it difficult or impossible for you to control your actions and have no awareness of the impact you could have on others
- Where you regularly have an intense response to overwhelming situations causing you temporary loss of behavioural control

You may qualify under this criterion, if you have an enduring (lasting for at least three years) and substantial disability that means you are, during the course of a journey:

- at risk of serious harm, when walking, or
- pose, when walking, a risk of serious harm to yourself or any other person.

PIP

You will be automatically eligible if you receive PIP (Personal Independence Payment) where in the “mobility component” specifically under the “planning and following journeys” - you obtained 10 points for descriptor E, assessed as causing you overwhelming psychological distress.

No other points scored would make you eligible.

If you do not receive PIP we will require medical evidence to determine your entitlement. The medical evidence would need to advise, for example, that you experience very considerable difficulty whilst walking, which may include overwhelming psychological distress.

Evidence you could provide:

- copies of your PIP full award letter. These must be dated within 12 months. If you are not able to find your award letter, please see the section below “Other relevant advice”.

- Medical evidence which you feel will support your case with regards to impairment of your ability to walk. This can be in the form of information from your consultant, psychologist or medical specialist.

Notes on providing evidence to support your application:

Documents supplied must:

- be relevant to the eligibility criteria you are applying under
- show your name and address

For example:

- a letter of diagnosis
- evidence of specialist consultations etc.
- letters from other professionals involved in your care

You can now get access to your medical records by visiting www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/about-the-nhs/how-to-get-your-medical-records/

Please do not ask your GP to write a letter on your behalf. We will not be able to consider this. We cannot accept appointment letters as proof, please do not send these.

Other relevant advice:

PIP

If you have lost your PIP award notice, the Department for Work and Pensions can provide another copy at: <https://www.gov.uk/disability-benefit-helpline>

Or you can contact:

- via telephone – 0800 121 4433 – Monday to Friday 8 am to 6 pm
- via textphone – 0800 121 4493