

**Case Study 2**

Miss ? is single & lives on her own she was referred by a neighbour who was concerned about her welfare. She suffers from learning difficulties, anxiety & depression and also severe back, neck & knee pain.

She has been on Jobseekers allowance for a long time & seems as though her advisor at jobcentre has finally signed her off due to her illnesses & claimed Employment & support allowance for her so she was in receipt of the assessment rate.

The client was in receipt of Housing & Council tax benefit with only the minimum amounts to pay.

She told me she used to have a support worker funded by the local authority who helped her with all aspects of her daily life but due to funding cuts this was withdrawn & she would have had to pay for it but the client was unable to afford it so subsequently she was left to fend for herself.

Client had never been on Disability Living Allowance in the past so we discussed her possible entitlement to Personal Independence Payment. We requested the application forms & one week later we completed them.

I kept in touch with the client & after a few weeks she had the medical assessment & was awarded the highest rate of the 'daily living' & the highest rate of 'mobility' of PIP which gave her an extra weekly income of £139 (£7267 pa) which she could now use to pay for her support worker again & any other expenses she incurs from her disabilities.

I also contacted ESA dept on her behalf as now she has been awarded the highest rate of PIP daily living she is entitled to the enhanced disability premium & the severe disability premium attached to her ESA which is also an extra £77.60 per week (£4035.20 pa).

Client is still waiting on her ESA assessment to be taken onto the main phase of ESA.

Client weekly income has therefore increased from £73.10 to £289.70 an increase of £216.60 per week or 396%