**Easy Read Letter: Concerns about the Government’s Green Paper on Benefits**

**To: All Members of Parliament (MPs) in Greater Manchester**
**From: Greater Manchester Disabled People’s Panel, LGBTQ+ Equality Panel, Older People’s Equality Panel, Race Equality Panel, Women and Girl’s Equality Panel, Youth Combined Authority**

**Date: 20 May 2025**

**Why we are writing to you**

We are very worried about the Government’s new plan for changing the benefits system.

This plan is called **‘Pathways to Work’** – a Green Paper from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

We believe these changes will harm disabled people and others who already face big challenges.

We are asking you, as our local MPs, to speak out and take action.

**Our main concerns**

🛑 **These changes will make life harder, not better**
The Government says the changes will help people find work.

But they are not fixing the real problems.

There are not enough good, accessible jobs for disabled people.

The focus is on forcing people to work, not supporting them properly.

🧍‍♀️🧍‍♂️ **Millions could lose money**
• 1.3 million disabled people could lose their **PIP Daily Living payment**.
• 80% of people on Universal Credit with health needs could lose all support.
• In total, around **2 million** disabled people could lose income.
• 600,000 people who are **too unwell to work** could be forced to look for jobs or risk **sanctions** (having money stopped).

🥫 **Disabled people are already struggling**
Many disabled people use food banks.

These new rules could make even more people go hungry.

There is evidence that the cuts could total **£9 billion**.

We do not know how many people (if any) will get jobs because of this.

But we do know that many people will lose vital support.

⚖️ **The United Nations has raised the alarm**
The UN says the UK is breaking the human rights of disabled people.

This new plan will make things worse.

**What we are most worried about**

**1. Disability and Health Assessments**

The Government wants to change the rules for getting PIP and other benefits.

People with **invisible illnesses** (like mental health conditions or chronic pain) may be told they are not “disabled enough”.

This is dangerous and unfair.

**2. Mental Health is being ignored**

The Green Paper says too many people with mental health problems are getting support.

This is wrong and **stigmatising** (making people feel ashamed).

Mental health is real and important.

**3. Sanctions and Conditions**

The Government wants more people to be **punished** if they don’t meet certain rules.

But sanctions don’t help people find work.

They just cause more stress, poverty, and ill health.

**4. Poor Consultation**

There are **22 changes** in the plan.

But the public is only being asked about **some of them**.

Many of the most serious ideas are already going into law.

Disabled people and their organisations have **not been properly listened to**.

**What we ask from you, our MPs**

Please:

✅ **Vote against** these changes.
✅ **Support disabled people’s voices** and co-design a new plan with us.
✅ **Back fair policies** based on people’s real lives and human rights.
✅ **Recognise the real cost of being disabled**, which is around **£1,010 a month** extra.

**A better way forward**

We want a benefits system that:

❤️ **Supports people**
✊ **Respects people’s rights**
🤝 **Builds trust, not fear**
💷 **Helps cover the real cost of disability**

We would like to meet with you to talk more about this.
Please work with us to protect our communities.

Thank you.

**Greater Manchester Disabled People’s Panel**

**Greater Manchester Equality Alliance**

**LGBTQ+ Equality Panel**

**Greater Manchester Older People’s Equality Panel**

**Greater Manchester Race Equality Panel**

**GMCA Women and Girl’s Equality Panel**

**Youth Combined Authority**