

be available for other purposes. We would invest that money to tackle - and eventually eradicate - food poverty.

We also back increases of at least the cost of living in welfare benefits and believe the roll out of both Personal Independence Payments (PIP) and Universal Credit should be halted. We will aim to reverse the replacement of Disability Living Allowance with PIP. We will also oppose the £3 billion cut in disability support. In addition, we have given assurances to people already supported by the Independent Living Fund that support will continue. **We will also support an urgent review of the system of assessments for disability benefits.**

The current tapers for Universal Credit have been set too low, which means claimants will still be caught in the benefits trap, with clear financial disincentives in place for work. We believe there should be an increase in the work allowance, to deliver a significant boost to the incomes of people moving into work, helping to lift them and their families out of poverty. **We will also support an overhaul of the Work Capability Assessments.** These are still delivering too many poor decisions, which are overturned on appeal, creating real hardship for households.

We will demand an urgent review of the conditionality and sanctions regime, in order to deliver an overhaul of the current, deeply ineffective arrangements, which impact on some of the most vulnerable in our society. The review will take particular account of the needs of people with mental health issues. We will seek to establish an approach that is proportionate and ethical, that recognises the particular challenges facing some individuals, and that avoids

excessive or blanket measures which penalise those looking for work. The removal of cash benefits should be a last, rather than a first, resort.

We will support an increase in Carers' Allowance so that it matches Jobseekers' Allowance. Those in receipt of Carers' Allowance will benefit by almost £600 per year. We will also press for the introduction, in Scotland, of **a pilot programme of carer's leave.**

We will not support attempts to restrict housing benefit for 18 to 21 year olds and believe exemptions to the Shared Accommodation Rate should be extended, for example, to cover all ages.

We believe that those who have been injured in the service of our country should get the full value of any war disablement pension and so will ensure that it is not treated as income in the assessment of entitlement to other benefits.

Ending fuel poverty has also been a key campaign for the SNP at Westminster for decades. In this next Parliament, we will seek action to ensure that those using pre-payment meters have access to the same lower energy prices available to those using other payment methods.

We will also press the UK government to ensure that pensioners whose homes are 'off grid' receive their winter fuel allowances earlier, so they can take advantage of lower prices earlier in the year.