

Note of Meeting

Independent Living Fund Scotland: Stakeholder Group Meeting

Norton Park Conference Centre, Edinburgh

Thursday 6th October 2016: 11:00am - 3:00pm

Present

Peter Brawley – Chair
Fiona McColl
Chloe McKee
Joan McKee
Rosemary Moffat
Jim Elder-Woodward – from 11.30am
Andy Higgins – from 12pm

Apologies

John Orr
Grant Mohammed
Laura Forbes
Linda Burke
Cathie Heaney

In Attendance

Peter Scott
Holly Child
Lisel Porch – Scottish Government ILF Sponsor Team

1. Welcome and Introductions

Following introductions, Peter Brawley formally welcomed everyone to the third meeting of the stakeholder group. He also welcomed Lisel Porch from the Scottish Government ILF Sponsor Team who was in attendance at this meeting for the first time.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The group went through the previous minutes, which were fine, but the group requested if the revised satisfaction surveys could be sent to all members.

Action: Holly to send a copy of the revised satisfaction surveys to all group members.

3. Matters Arising

N/A

4. Update ILF Scotland Available Income Policy

At previous meetings, members of the stakeholder group had expressed, in discussions about ILF Scotland's Available Income Policy, that going forward they would like to see recipients only being charged a weekly contribution that is the equivalent of ½ DLA. In addition, they had also voiced concern with regards to those recipients who were paying a substantially large weekly contribution, due to an occupational pension being taken into account.

Peter Scott explained that Margaret Wheatley (Head of Policy for ILF Scotland) had submitted a proposal to the Scottish Government ILF Sponsor Team, for the Minister, to immediately look at addressing

their concerns and their feedback. The Scottish Government ILF Sponsor Team have now asked Margaret to provide further detail for the proposal for submission to the Minister. Margaret will resubmit this proposal in mid-October for a decision to be made by the Minister.

The group asked if they could be informed when a decision has been made.

Action: Margaret to update the group at the next meeting of the progress with this policy.

5. Scottish Living Wage

Peter Scott explained that ILF Scotland have now been given approval by Scottish Ministers to enable ILF recipients who directly employ Personal Assistants to pay the Living Wage for every active (wakened) hour of daytime support. It was clarified that any increase in the ILF award will be offered within the terms of current ILF Scotland policies and that overnights would be paid at the minimum wage rate.

The group were pleased to hear about this development, but wanted to ensure that communication to recipients was simple and clear, with the reassurance that they could contact staff at any time if they had any questions. It was agreed that the best way to guarantee this was to have simple information on the website and to send a letter directly to recipients specifying all of the information with all of ILF Scotland's details stated clearly.

Some members did however express concern that ILF Scotland was not receiving extra funding in the same way that Local Authorities were to cover these costs and how this may affect other areas of the Fund, for example ILF recipients who use agencies. It was clarified that, at this present time, ILF recipients who use agencies and who may request an increase in relation to this cost would be looked at on

a case by case basis and this is the approach that would be taken for the foreseeable future.

6. Update employment policy review

Andy informed the group that following the first meeting of the Employment Support Policy Group, they would be looking at four specific areas as well as the whole of Policy 44, “Employment Support Policy” itself. These areas are:

- Redundancies
- Sleepovers
- Public Liability Insurance
- Pensions

Members of the group asked if Andy and Margaret could give a presentation or overview of what progress has been made to date with this policy at the next meeting.

Members of the group also asked, in preparation to discuss this matter at the next meeting, if Holly could please send this policy to everyone.

Action: Margaret and Andy to feedback/present progress on Policy 44, “Employment Support Policy” to the group at the next meeting.

Action: Holly to send a copy of the policy to all group members.

7. Update National Insurance, ILF Scotland Policy

Following feedback from members of the group at the previous meeting, it was confirmed that, with regards to this policy area in the

future, recipients' circumstances will be looked at on a case by case basis.

8. New fund policy update

Peter Scott emphasised that, with one meeting left, the Working Group have given very positive feedback and believe that the overall process has been a truly co-productive one.

It was explained that the final meeting will happen in November and that, following this, a report and recommendation will be submitted from the Working Group to the Minster for a decision to be made. It was clarified to the stakeholder group that the report will be made publically available.

Action: Holly to ensure that when this is available all stakeholder group members have a copy of and access to this.

9. COSLA/ILF Scotland agreement

Peter Scott talked through the joint statement that has been published between COSLA and ILF Scotland and the commitment that has been made between the two organisations for a shared vision of independent living.

The group were pleased to hear about this development and asked if there was a way for this to be sent out to recipients?

Action: Holly to look and see if there is a possibility that this to be done.

10. Any other business

Peter Scott reminded the group about the Social Security Consultation that was happening on Wednesday 12th October. All group members agreed that they would try to attend and asked Holly to send them the details.

Action: Holly to send all stakeholder members the details of the Social Security Consultation.

11. Next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held at GCIL on Thursday 26th January 2017 from 11am – 3pm.