

Note of Meeting

Independent Living Fund Scotland: Northern Ireland Stakeholder Group Meeting

Mencap Centre, 5 School Road, Newtownbreda, Belfast BT8 7BT

Thursday 20th April 2017: 11:00am - 2:00pm

Present

Niqi Rainey
Dennis Curie
Rachel Curie
Kieran McCarthy
Valerie McCarthy
Victor McCarthy
Colette Jones
Christine Bartlett
David Macdonald

Apologies

Anita Shannon
Elizabeth Gray
Margaret Docherty
Robert Simpson
Marie Simpson
Richard Saale
Margaret Maloney
David Maloney
Maria Treacy
Dolores Hannigan

In Attendance

Peter Scott
Holly Child
Liam Hargan

1. Welcome and introductions

Following introductions, Peter welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

It was agreed that the minutes from the last meeting were accurate and approved.

3. Matters arising

It was noted that those members of the stakeholder group who were part of the sub group that had been organised to hold meetings with the NI Sponsor Team had had their first meeting. The feedback from the meeting was positive and it had been agreed going forward that the NI Sponsor Team would meet with the sub group members before each stakeholder meeting took place at 10am.

Those that were part of this sub group emphasised that they would like the NI Sponsor Team to look at ensuring any unused funding or unspent monies remained in the Fund and for this funding to be available for new recipients.

Those that were part of this sub group also explained that they would like the opportunity to hold a number of consultation events regarding funding for new recipients, but that they would require funding to do this and that they would speak to the Sponsor Team about this.

Peter informed members that the NI Sponsor Team were happy to approve the removal of pensions from the Available Income Policy, following previous consultation with stakeholder group members.

It was noted that the NI Sponsor Team's approval of this policy change may place pressure on the Scottish Government and their Sponsor Team to make a decision regarding this policy, as to date a decision is yet to be made.

4. Nomination of New Chair

The group agreed that David would be the new Chair.

5. Changes on Agreement Form

Group members were largely happy with the changes that have been made to the agreement form, however there was concern about the section which states that a recipient or award manager must inform ILF Scotland if they go into hospital. Although it was agreed this was more a concern about the policy rather than the form, stakeholder members wanted to ensure that if support was still needed whilst a recipient was in hospital could ILF support still continue in those circumstances?

It was explained that ILF Scotland's understanding of the policy was that this would only apply if a recipient was in hospital for longer than 4 weeks and even after this time if any particular requests were made the management team would look at any of these on a case by case basis.

6. Update on Employment Policy Review

The ILF Scotland Policy Team have updated Policy 44 and requested feedback from stakeholder group members on the following questions:

- **Payroll costs, do you agree the payroll charge cost of £12 per week remains the same?**

The feedback from the group was that this was potentially not entirely relevant as the ILF rate matches the Direct Payment (DP) rate of the Trust so whatever the DP rate is this will include payroll.

- **Do you agree with our policy to ask recipients who do not wish to pay the Scottish Living Wage, to opt out of this?**

Although, it was recognised that this question only applies to recipients in Scotland, stakeholder group members wanted to state that they felt this policy had negative unintended consequences for recipients in Scotland, particularly those who are at the maximum level of award.

- **Do you agree that ILF Scotland will only pay the national minimum wage for overnight periods?**

Group members were happy with this, however they are concerned that the Trusts are still paying a night rate rather than an hourly rate for overnights and that there will be huge inconsistency where there is a joint ILF and Trust package.

- **Should ILF Scotland require recipients to pay a higher Employers Liability Insurance?**

Overall, the group decided that recipients should probably have the higher rate and that assessors should perhaps re-enforce and explain about this on visits. However, the group did express that they would not want any individual to be in a situation where by accepting the higher rate would force them over the maximum award limit.

- **Task training, do you agree with the insertion of our current practice into the policy?**

The group were happy with this, but did suggest whether the word 'exceptional' could be a bit more explicit that this is for new employees only.

- **Do you agree with the proposed section on pension costs?**

As ILF hourly rates in NI match the DP rates from the Trusts, there was concern amongst group members that the DP rate from the Trust does not include an amount for pensions. Liam informed the group that ILF

assessors are due to meet with some representatives from the Trusts in the next few weeks and he would ensure that he spoke to them about this.

There was also concern expressed amongst group members about the negative consequences for those who are at their maximum award level who would need to pay this pension contribution.

- **Do you have any comments on the new rules on self-employment?**

The group agreed with these points, but said that they wanted ILF Scotland to ensure recipients and award managers had all of the information that they needed.

7. Forum

Many of the group members were not able to access or download the link that had been sent showing them how to use the forum. There was a suggestion as to whether Andy could break the video down so that each section could be made in to a separate video and for that to be sent to everyone. Holly will speak to Andy to see if he can do this.

However, Andy has also produced a DVD of the forum guidance video so if anyone would like to request this please ask Holly to send you a copy.

Action: Holly to speak to Andy about forum guidance video link.

8. New Fund

Peter provided an update on the progress of the new fund in Scotland. It was noted that there had already been a discussion earlier in the meeting regarding the plans of the sub group and their upcoming meetings with the NI Sponsor team regarding funding for new recipients in NI.

9. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting is due to take place on Monday 3rd July from 11am until 2pm at Mencap Centre, 5 School Road, Newtownbreda, Belfast BT8 7BT. However, group members need to check that they are happy with this.