

Note of Meeting

Independent Living Fund Scotland: Northern Ireland Stakeholder Group Meeting

Tuesday 9th February 2021 11.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m. (zoom meeting)

Present

David McDonald
Kieran McCarthy
Caroline Wheeler
Collette Jones
Frances McHugh
Niqi Rainey
Bryan Myles
Amanda Paul

In Attendance

Linda Scott
Peter Scott
Lee House
Liam Hargan
Harvey Tilley

Apologies

Valerie McCarthy

List of Actions:

1. Liam Hargan to feedback issues to Trusts concerning unpaid carers registering to receive the vaccination.
2. Linda Scott to follow up for more information on unpaid carers receiving the covid-19 vaccination as a priority.
3. Lee House to send out interim recipient survey feedback & terms of reference documents.

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1. Welcome, Introductions, Apologies and Housekeeping

David welcomed everyone to the meeting, took apologies and went through housekeeping. Everyone agreed to recording the meeting to help with completing the minutes.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The previous meeting's minutes were approved & will be uploaded to the website. Alannah to action.

Actions points from previous meeting:

1. Issues raised under Matters Arising to be discussed further with those concerned outside the meeting. (Done)
2. Bryan Myles to follow up with contacts and make an introduction to Paul Hayllor and Robert White re platforms for video conferencing. (Done)
4. David McDonald to send a Group response on the Options Paper to Harvey Tilley and Colin Dunlop, following the receipt of Members' recommendations, which should be with David McDonald by Sunday 8th November 2020. (Done)
5. Linda Scott to submit a proposal to the stakeholder group for changes in Policy 4 Available Income to reflect the changes made in Scotland. (Pending)
6. Stakeholder Group Members to feedback on changes to Policy 41 to Linda Scott via email by the end of November. (Done)
7. Frances McHugh to send David McDonald a proposal on the inclusion or exclusion of temporary and long term additional Members. (Done - verbally)
8. Linda Scott to circulate a revised draft of the Terms of Reference, to reflect the discussion, to all Members. (Done)
9. Members to email any comments on the Recipient Survey to Linda Scott. (Pending)

3. Matters arising

No matters arising.

4. Proposed re-opening of fund in NI

Peter Scott advised we are awaiting the submission to the Minister regards the re-opening of the 2015 fund in Northern Ireland. The request will go to the Permanent Secretary for Health before it is forwarded to the Minister. Peter Scott is hopeful that the Minister will support the re-opening of the fund but at this point we are still awaiting an update.

5. Policy Update(s)

Linda Scott advised there are 3 policies that have been updated. Linda Scott has drafted a revised policy 4 which reflects what Scotland has currently. The changes are in regards tot the available income contribution to exceed the maximum sum. Linda Scott advises if any new scheme opens then it would be put forward that the contribution would be a lowered further to £43.00 or at zero.

David Mcdonald asked the group how they felt about the contribution to the 2015 in Northern Ireland being lowered. Peter Scott gave the group an indication of the costs for reducing the available income. To reduce to zero would be 1 million pounds, £300,000 to reduce to £43.00 and £95,000 to reduce to £83.00.

Caroline Wheeler advised of the costs she has incurred due to making a contribution to her ILF Scotland award.

Linda Scott advised that the revised Policy 41 Use of Funds has been submitted to the sponsor team to be reviewed to bring in line with the SDS principles to give recipients more choice and control. Linda Scott advised that Policy 44 has also been submitted to the sponsor team and Linda Scott is hopeful that it will be signed off by the end of the year.

Linda Scott discussed the flexible arrangements policy and advised this will be continued to be payed until March this year. There was no further update on this being extended beyond March.

6. PA Vaccination arrangements

Linda Scott has advised that the update on vaccinations has been added to the ILF Scotland website. Liam Hargan advises he has been trying to get all the Trusts to adopt the same approach when contacting recipients about vaccinations. Liam Hargan advises unfortunately there has been different processes from some of the trusts. Liam Hargan advises that we have 30 people in Northern Ireland that have had no contact with the Trust. Liam Hargan advised ILF Scotland have been in contact with them all to arrange passing their details over to the trusts to support their PA's being vaccinated. ILF Scotland will be sending out a letter to advise on the process of PA vaccination.

Stakeholder group discussed identification for carers to help be more recognizable and to help support receiving the vaccination.

Linda Scott will look to find out more information about unpaid carers receiving the vaccination as a priority and feed back to the group.

7. Feedback from ILF Scotland Assessor Wellbeing calls

Liam Hargan advises the assessors have completed 75% of wellbeing calls. Liam Hargan advises around 5% are struggling with loss of care. Liam Hargan advises ILF Scotland have been able to support in a flexible way.

8. Recipient feedback survey

Lee House gave presentation of the interim report from the recipient feedback survey.

9. Post Covid-19 “get together”

Peter Scott talked to the group about the possibility of getting together post Covid-19. Peter Scott hopes that the group would be able to come to Scotland at some point in the future.

10. Any other business

Linda Scott advises that progress is being made of the charter for involvement. Linda Scott will be setting up a further meeting with an action plan being put in place by the end of April.

Peter Scott discussed the independent review of adult social care in Scotland. Peter Scott advises to the group that the outcome of the review was to re-open the ILF Scotland 2015 fund with additional funding.

11. Dates of next meetings

David Mcdonald proposes the 2nd Tuesday every 3 months for future meetings. The next meeting would be Tuesday 11th May.

12. Terms of Reference

Terms of reference discussed by the group. Linda Scott advised document will be sent out to all stakeholder members to review.