

Note of Meeting

Independent Living Fund Scotland: Northern Ireland Stakeholder Group Meeting

Thursday 10th February 2022 11.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m. (zoom meeting)

Permanent Members Present

David McDonald
Kieran McCarthy
Colette Jones
Niqi Rainey

Affiliate Members Present

Amanda Paul
Bryan Myles

Visiting Members Present

Michaela Hollywood
Robert Dallas

ILF Scotland Representatives in Attendance

Peter Scott
Harvey Tilley
Liam Hargan
Robert White
Linda Scott
Lee House

Department of Health Representatives in Attendance

Colin Dunlop

Permanent Members Apologies

Frances McHugh

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List of Actions:

1. Linda to look at possibility of ILF Scotland drafting an advice document on Advanced Care Planning to support Recipients and Award Managers.

1. Welcome, Introductions, Apologies and Housekeeping

David advised we would be recording the meeting, to help finalise the minutes, with which everyone agreed.

David welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Michaela Hollywood and Robert Dallas who he hoped would be returning regularly, accepted apologies and went through housekeeping.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The previous meeting's minutes were approved and will be uploaded to the website. ILF Communications Team to action.

Actions points from previous meeting:

1. Lee to send out the Charter of Involvement presentation. (Done)
2. Lee to send out updated dates for next meetings in 2022. (Done)

3. Matters arising

David advised the Group that the Advanced Care Planning consultation is now open.

David asked if it would be helpful if ILF Scotland could put together an advice document and advanced care planning template with relevant references to Advanced Decision to Refuse Treatment and Do Not Attempt Resuscitation

Forms for Recipients and Award Managers. Linda said she would progress this.

David advised also of two other current consultations of interest: the Inconsiderate Pavement Parking Options Paper by the Department of Infrastructure; and the Reform of Adult Social Care by the Department of Health.

The Group agreed to arrange to meet to discuss and consider a joint response to the Reform of Adult Social Care Consultation. Emma will join to provide support to the Group as required.

4. Letter to Minister

David shared his letter to the Minister, Robin Swann MLA, to which the Group responded positively . Both it and the reply from Colin Dunlop were discussed fully.

(Bryan Myles joined the meeting at 11:26am)

5. Re-opening of the 2015 Fund in Northern Ireland

Colin Dunlop advised the Group that despite the lack of a functioning Executive and the continuing funding restraints, the Department is trying to progress matters.

6. Available Income and other Policies, including Covid-19 update

Linda confirmed that any reduction in Available Income contributions would be incorporated in any re-opening of the Fund in Northern Ireland.

Linda confirmed too that the Department of Health has extended sustainability payments until the end of March 2022. This means that ILF Scotland is able to pay additional costs relating to Covid-19 until then if

necessary. Linda expects a further update from the Department of Health in March.

7. Electronic Form Feedback

Linda discussed the ILF Scotland Redundancy Form and Unspent Monies Form and asked for any feedback to be emailed to Lee. David made some initial comments and Linda confirmed that ILF Scotland will take these on board.

8. £500 Thank You Payments for PAs

Harvey Tilley advised that a project group has been set up with members meeting recently and agreeing an application and payment process. Harvey advised that, subject to confirmation, the process will open on 21st March 2022 for applications. The first payment is due to go out on the 4th April 2022.

PAs will need to apply themselves. If they fit the criteria, they will receive a net payment of £500.00 pro rata. The portal will be open for 3 months and there will also be a helpline and support in place.

(Colin Dunlop left the meeting at 12:02)

(Collette Jones left the meeting at 12:06)

(Michaela Hollywood joined the meeting at 12:06)

(Robert White joined the meeting at 12:07)

(Robert Dallas left the meeting at 12:15)

9. PA Recruitment & Retention

Liam Hargan advised the Group that ILF Scotland is hearing from a significant number of Recipients and Award Managers in Northern Ireland who are finding it increasingly difficult to retain and recruit staff. The rate of pay for domiciliary care workers and nursing home staff is rising considerably with Trusts agreeing to an increase to £18.00 per hour for providers on their Framework Agreement. ILF Scotland is unable to match this increase in some cases because this would take the Recipients above the maximum award that ILF Scotland can pay. ILF Scotland Assessors are asking the Trusts to pick up the difference in the cost for individuals but Trusts are struggling in a number of cases to support this.

10. Review Visits, Review Reports and the GDPR

Robert White advised the Group that the ILF Scotland review cycle has started again after the Omicron variant. He mentioned that the Trusts have asked for patience while they implement their recovery plans. Robert advised that ILF Scotland will take more time with reviews as the complexity rises for each visit; the average visit now being 2-3 hours.

Robert advised the Group that ILF Scotland will no longer be asking Recipients to submit a Subject Access Request for a copy of the review visit report. This can now be requested via the ILF Scotland Assessor or casework team. The shared review visit report will be the final version and would only be amended if there were any factual inaccuracies.

**(Colette Jones re-joined the meeting at 13:00)
(Kieran McCarthy left the meeting at 13:00)**

11. Charter for Involvement

Linda advised the Group that there will be a year-end report produced by April 2022. This will go to ILF Scotland's Board and Linda will send it to the Stakeholder Group. The report will confirm progress made to the end of March 2022 and those actions that will be carried forward to 2022/23.

12. List of Stakeholder Members

David advised the Group that we will keep this agenda point ongoing until we next meet in person. The feeling is that many of the possible attendees of the Group would prefer to meet in person rather than using Zoom.

13. Any Other Business

None

14. Future Meeting & Arrangements

Thursday 12th May 2022 11.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.

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Thursday 11th August 2022 11.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.

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