Independent Living Fund Scotland

Text

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Scotland Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

23 May 2022

Easy Read

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| Calendar pages showing 23 May 2022. | | | The meeting happened on Monday 23 May 2022 from 1pm to 3pm. | | |
| The blue and red logo for Glasgow Centre for Inclusive Living. And a man using his computer to see a Zoom meeting. | | | The meeting happened face to face at Glasgow Centre for Inclusive Living and also on Zoom. | | |
| Grey silhouetted heads around a question mark. | | | **Who was at this meeting?**  Jim Elder-Woodward  Andy Higgins  Nic Reid  Kate Walsh (online)  Joan Turner (joined online at 3.22pm)  Lee House  Linda Scott  Robert White  Emma O’Neill (online)  Catherine Montgomery (online)  Sandra Sweeney (joined at 2.20pm) | | |
| Grey silhouetted heads around a question mark. The image has been crossed out with a diagonal red line. | | | | **Who could not come?**  Chloe Mckee  Gordon Mckee  Christine Mercer | | | | |
| A screen showing an email envelope. | | | | **4 Actions from this meeting**   1. Lee will send out electronic forms when Ann Cowan has finished them. | | | | |
| A woman writing a document. | | | | **2.** Linda will write a draft reply about the plan for a new Disability Commissioner.  She will send it out to the group, to see if there are any changes to make. | | | | |
| A meeting table with a numbered agenda in front of it.  A Register page with people's names and faces below the blue title 'Register'. | | | | **3**. Lee will put these things on the next meeting agenda:   * planned **registration** of Personal Assistants * planned rules about Personal Assistants   **Registration** means making a list of people who have joined. | | | | |
| A meeting table with an agenda in front of it. The first number on the agenda is circled in red. | | | | **4**. Lee will make sure that the Terms of Reference is talked about earlier in the next meeting.  He will put it nearer the beginning of the meeting agenda. | | | | |
| A table with the word 'welcome' and 3 people sitting behind it waving and smiling. | | | **1. Welcome and Introductions**  Jim welcomed everyone.  He asked if everyone was okay with the meeting being recorded.  Everyone agreed. | | | |
| A spiral bound minutes document. | | | **2. Minutes and Actions from the last Meeting**  The Minutes did not need any changes made.  They will be put on the website. | | | |
| A screen showing an email envelope. In front is a clipboard with a red cross. | | | **Actions from the last meeting**  Lee will send out the electronic forms for the group to look at, as soon as they are ready.  This is still being worked on. | | | |
| A photo of Queen Elizabeth II's smiling face. Behind her is the Union Jack flag and the words '70th Platinum Jubilee'. In front is a clipboard with a green tick. | | | Peter and Linda will talk to the sponsor team about possibly having a public holiday for Personal Assistants, for the Queen’s Jubilee.  This has been done. | | | |
| A screen showing an email envelope. In front is a clipboard with a green tick. | | | Linda will send a new copy of the Terms of Reference to everyone in the group.  This has been done. | | | |
| A blue and red National Insurance wallet card. In front is a clipboard with a green tick. | | | Linda will share information about Employer National Insurance costs.  This has been done. | | | |
| 4 people standing together talking. A red diagonal line crosses out the image. | | | **3. Any other things we need to talk about**  There was nothing extra to talk about. | | | | |
| A tall pile of 10 pound notes. | | | 1. **Scottish Social Care wages going up**   **Wages** mean the money that a worker is paid for doing their job. | | | | |
| A 10 pound note and a 50 pence coin. A calendar page showing 1 April. | | | | The Independent Living Fund Scotland added 5 and a half percent to all awards from 1 December 2021.  The new Social Care wage is 10 pounds and 50 pence an hour. This started on 1 April 2022. | | | |
| A woman sitting thinking. Around her are piles of bank notes and coins. | | | | The Independent Living Fund Scotland added 4 point 8 percent to Personal Assistants rates from 1 April 2022. | | | |
| Calendar pages showing the years 2022 to 2029. In front is a hand holding a fan of bank notes. | | | | Independent Living Fund Scotland will look at putting up **provider** rates in the future in each case.  In this document, **providers** are organisations like care agencies. | | | |
| A man standing and pointing to the document he holds. | | | | Award Managers must get a copy of the letter about pay rises from the provider.  They must send this letter to the Independent Living Fund. | | | |
| A spiral bound document titled 'Plan'. | | | | 1. **The Disability Commissioner Bill plan** | | | |
| A group of disabled people. In front a man is speaking into a microphone with his hand pointed towards the group. | | | | A Member of Scottish Parliament wants to make a new job called a Disability **Commissioner**.  A **commissioner** is someone who speaks up for a group of people.  A Disability Commissioner speaks up for disabled people. | | | |
| A group working together at a table. | | | | The group said that they will write a reply about this plan. | | | |
| The Scottish Parliament building. A stack of 20 pound notes. | | | | 1. **Possibly opening the 2015 Fund again**   Jim said that he asked Kevin Stewart – the Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care – about opening this fund again.  Mr Stewart said that the Scottish Government wants to open it again.  But the fund needs to be able to have enough money in the future. | | | |
| A woman holding money next to a smiling woman. | | | | | | | **7. Policy Updates**  Linda told everyone about the COVID-19 Sustainability payments.  These payments are given to care providers during the pandemic to help them carry on their business. | | | | | |
| Calendar page showing 1 July. | | | | | | | The Scottish Government wants services to go back to normal from 1 July 2022.  Most of these payments will stop then. | | | | | |
| A group of people working together at a table. In front are piles of money to show 'funding'. | | | | | | | Hourly rates for Personal Assistants are going up.  This means that people’s awards are getting higher. They are reaching the maximum amount that Independent Living Fund can pay out.  Independent Living Fund Scotland is talking to the Sponsor Team to see what the choices are. | | | | | |
| A spiral bound document called Word Policy. | | | | | | | Policy 26 is called Managing an Independent Living Fund Scotland Award.  Linda has sent the new Policy 26 to all the group members for their thoughts.  It makes the different roles clearer. | | | | | |
| A spiral bound Policy document with a green tick. | | | | | | | Linda told the Group that some Assessors had asked about Policy 31 – Relatives Living with Recipients as a Paid Personal Assistant.  They wanted to know if the Policy should have ‘close relationship’ instead of ‘relatives’. | | | | | |
| A thumbs up. | | | | | | | The Group agreed.  Linda will talk with the Sponsor Team about this. | | | | | |
| A sack with a pound sign on the front, and 50 pound notes showing at the neck of the sack. | | | | | | | **8.** **Award Schedule, Contingency Funds and Holidays**  **Contingency Funds** mean money that is saved up just in case it is needed. | | |
| A woman sitting thinking. Around her are piles of bank notes and coins. | | | | | | | Linda said that the Group had talked about changing payments so that recipientscan look after their money more easily.  The Finance Team have been asked for their thoughts on these changes. | | |
| A National Insurance blue and red wallet card. Below are 2 women holding leaflets and paperwork. | | | | | | | There was lots of talk about **National Insurance** **contributions.**  This is the money paid by employers to the Government.  Linda said she will sort out:   * advice * training * information in the newsletter | | |
| A man and woman chatting together with  a notepad and pen. | | | | | | | **9. Review Visits**  Robert said that Reviews are happening again.  Most people want a face to face visit. | | |
| A map of a local area. | | | | | | | Some Local Authorities have not gone back to the same funding and support that they were giving before COVID-19.  Independent Living Fund Scotland is trying to sort this out at reviews. | | |
| A screen showing an email envelope. | | | | **10. Feedback about Electronic Forms**  Lee will email out the electronic forms for the Group to see when he has heard back from Ann Cowan. | | | | | | |
| A personal assistant. A Register page. A rule book. | | | | **11. Personal Assistants Register and Rules**  A **register** is a list of names and details.  Jim said that the Scottish Government wants Personal Assistants to:   * be on a register * follow the same rules   He said this is quite tricky – for example, sorting out different training needs. | | | | | | |
| A woman thinking. To her side is a thought bubble with a red cross and a green tick. | | | | Andy said at the moment Personal Assistants will be allowed to choose if they want to be on the register or not. | | | | | | |
| A man lying in a hospital bed. | | | | **12. Staying in hospital**  The Independent Living Fund Scotland stops payments if a recipient has stayed in hospital for 28 days or longer.  But during COVID-19 they did not do this. | | | | | | |
| A personal assistant with his job title below him. | | | | The Group talked about how important it is for Personal Assistants to support some recipients in hospital.  Linda said that people should speak to the Independent Living Fund caseworker team if they need this support.  They will see if payments can carry on. | | | | | | |
| A group of people meeting around a table. | | | | **13. Charter for Involvement**  Linda asked if the Group could have extra meetings to see what still needs to be done in the Charter for Involvement Action Plan. | | | | |
| 3 people sitting at a table with their thumbs up. | **14. Terms of Reference**  Andy asked if the Group could be given a new shorter name of ‘Scotland Advisory Group’.  Everyone agreed. | | | | | |
| 3 people sat a meeting table. The woman in the middle is asking the others if there is any other business to talk about. | **15. Any other business**  There was nothing else to talk about. | | | | | |
| Calendar pages showing 22 August and 21 November. | **16. Dates of the next meetings**  The next meetings will be on:   * Monday 22 August 2022 * Monday 21 November 2022 | | | | | |
| A clock showing 12 noon. A red arrow points to a second clock showing 3pm. | Both the meetings will be from 12 noon to 3.00pm. | | | | | |
| A man waving goodbye. | This is the end of the Minutes. | | | | | |