# Independent Living Fund Scotland

A green and white logo

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**What we will talk about**

A group of people sitting around a table

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## About this document

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|  | This is an Easy Read information document. |
| A group of people sitting around a table  Description automatically generated | It will tell you:   * the things we will talk about in small groups * the questions we will ask you |

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| A clock showing 11.15 A 60 minute clock face with 15 minutes in red and the rest in grey. | The first group chat will be at **11.15am**.  The chat will be about:   * who can access Independent Living Fund money – we call this the **Threshold Sum** * The amount of money the Independent Living Fund should pay – we call this the **Maximum Award** * **Age** |
|  | **Threshold Sum** means that a disabled person must get a certain amount of money from their local council to get Independent Living Fund money too.  This amount is usually 3 hundred and 40 pounds each week.  A review of adult social care says the new amount should be 6 hundred pounds.  The higher this number is, less people could access funding.  The lower this number is, more people could access funding but the weekly amount would be small. |
| A woman thinking. | Questions to think about before you get here:   * Should people need to get money from their local council before they can apply to ILF Scotland? * How much should that money be? |
| A pile of bank notes. | The **Maximum Award** is the biggest amount of money the Independent Living Fund can give to someone each week is now 4 hundred and 75 pounds. |
| A woman thinking. | Questions to think about before you get here:   * Should the Independent Living Fund open again only to people who get a minimum amount of money from their local council? * How much should that be? |
| 3 men, 1 young, 1 middle aged, 1 older. | In this document, **Age** means how old you need to be to get money from the Independent Living Fund. |
|  | Just now the age is between 16 years old and 64 years old.  But the funding carries on after someone has turned 65. It does not stop. |
| A pile of bank notes. | When the fund is opened again, if we change these ages to include more people, then more people can get funding.  But that means there will be less money to share around for the people with the most needs. |
| A woman thinking. | Questions to think about before you get here:   * Should we keep the same ages – 16 to 64? |
| A clock showing 12.05  . A 60 minute clock face with 30 minutes in red and the rest in grey. | The second group chat will be at **12.05pm**  The chat will be about:   * **Managing an Independent Living Fund Award** * Charging for Independent Living (**Available Income Contribution**) * **Capital** |
| A pile of bank notes. | **Managing an Independent Living Fund Award.** Everyone who gets money from the Independent Living Fund just now must have someone to manage this – they are the Award Manager. |
|  | The Award Manager:   * Manages the Independent Living Fund money and makes sure it is spent in the right way * employs staff as Personal Assistants * buys support services from a company |
| A woman pointing to herself. | Many disabled people who get funding are their own Award Manager too. |
| A group of smiling people. | Award Managers can be:   * the person getting the funding * someone who has some control to support the person – like a Financial Guardian, for example * someone else – like a family member * Social Work staff |
| A woman thinking. | Questions to think about before you get here:   * Will the above rules we already have about Award Managers work well when the fund opens again? * Or do we need to do something different? |
| A hand holding out 5 bank notes. | **Charging for Independent Living (Available Income Contribution)** This means an amount of money that a disabled person pays towards their support – on top of the money the Independent Living Fund pays.  At the moment it is £43 per week. |
| A stop sign. | The Scottish Government wants personal care charges to end in the future.  We need to decide whether we should still have this charge when the fund opens again. |
| A woman thinking. | Questions to think about before you get here:   * Should the re-opened fund carry on with a weekly charge? * Is £43 a week about right? |
| Sacks of money. | **Capital** is the amount of money someone has in things like:   * savings * investments * second houses * land   The Independent Living Fund capital threshold is 32 thousand, 7 hundred and 50 pounds. |
|  | This means that if someone has or gets this amount of money, they cannot get Independent Living Fund money. |
| A woman thinking. | Questions to think about before you get here:   * When the fund opens again, should the Independent Living Fund count the amount of capital people have again? * Should it be a different amount? |
| A clock showing 1.40 A 60 minute clock face with 30 minutes in red and the rest in grey. | The third group chat will be at **1.40pm**  The chat will be about:   * Working well with **Local Authorities** * Independent Living Fund is in addition to Local Authority money- **Additionality** * How Independent Living Fund money is used |
| A council office. | **Local Authorities** mean local councils.  At the moment both local councils and the Independent Living Fund give money together to disabled people. |
| A man and woman knocking at a door. | Independent Living Fund aims to visit each disabled person once every few years to check everything is going well.  A social work staff member from the local council should go along too. And the person themselves should be asked what they think. |
| A woman thinking. | Questions to think about before you get here:   * Should reviews happen once every few years? * Should the local council continue to be part of these reviews? |
| A woman using a wheelchair with her arms up in celebration. | **Additionality** means the extra independent living that can happen for a person with funding from ILF Scotland. |
|  | Independent Living Fund money was not meant to be the main funding for disabled people.  It should be topping up the amount that each local council agree to pay.  Local councils should pay for personal care. |
| A woman thinking. | Questions to think about before you get here:   * How can we make sure that in the re-opened fund, ILF Scotland keeps paying extra money on top of what the council pays? * Should we say our funds are only used for extra independent living and not for personal care? |
| A pile of bank notes. | **How Independent Living Fund money is used** – the extra money that Independent Living Fund gives helps people to choose things that are important to them to help them live more independently. |
| A young man choosing his hobbies. | The money can help with things like:   * having choice and control * taking part in community life * keeping well and happy |
| A woman thinking. | Questions to think about before you get here:   * Should we make any changes to how people can spend their funding? |