



ILF Scotland Co-Production Events

Discussion Summary

(Easy Read)

Made By



Values Into Action
Scotland



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The Independent Living Fund (ILF) Scotland held 7 events across Scotland.



3 of the events were online and 4 were in person.



ILF Scotland wanted to get the opinions of disabled people about what rules ILF should have when they re-opened to new people.

The groups discussed:

- The Threshold Sum
- The Maximum Award
- Age
- Award Management
- Charging for ILF
- Capital Threshold



- Relationship with Local Authorities
- Additionality
- Use of ILF Funding
- Who should get funding



This is a summary of the responses ILF Scotland got back from the groups.

Threshold Sum



The groups discussed the **threshold sum**. This is the amount of money disabled people must get from their council before they get ILF money.



Some believe that £600 is too high for some people. The amount should be flexible and based on the person's needs.



People think local authorities should use the same rules when setting thresholds. This would make it fairer for everyone.



Others say the threshold for each person should be based on how complex their needs are.



The groups believe that a balanced threshold is good. It should also be flexible for each person depending on their needs.

Key Statements:



- “£600 could be a good starting point but this would mean ILF Scotland is only supporting people with lots of needs. Threshold of £400 - £500 might mean it would reach more people. “



- “£600 is too much. Social work are trying to cut budgets.”



- “If there is a threshold to qualify for ILF, all Local Authorities should use the same amount to make it fair for everyone.”

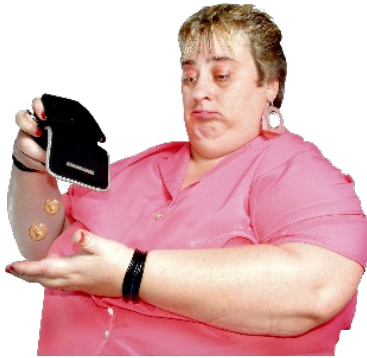


- “It has to be fair and accessible to the largest number of people.”

Maximum Award



The groups discussed the **maximum award**. This is the most money ILF Scotland can give someone each week.



People were concerned about the cost of living crisis. They agreed that people with more complex needs will need more support.



People discussed a flexible amount. Somewhere between £400 and £500.



People were also concerned about those who do not have social work support. It should be enough to meet people's needs.



People believed that a maximum amount should focus on needs rather than an amount of money.

Key statements:



- “It would be better if the maximum award could increase at the same level as hourly rates for adult social care staff.”



- “No there should not be a maximum award. Should be about individual needs.”



- “Agreement that there needs to be a maximum so that more people can get support. Not sure how much it should be.”



- “Cost of living is more. Maximum Award should be more as well.”

Age



People discussed **age**. This is how old you need to be to get money from ILF Scotland.



Many agreed that there should not be an upper age limit. A lot of elderly disabled people could use ILF support.



There was some disagreement about a lower age limit. Some suggest 16 while others suggest 18.



Some said that there is already a Transition Fund for under 25s. Some even suggested making the minimum age 25.



The overall agreement is that there should not be an upper age limit. Older people need support as well.

Key Statements:



- “Upper limit of 64 years does not make sense. People are living longer and old people are already forgotten about.”



- “Difficult to comment on people under 16. Depends on the independence of the person at that age. There may be some situations where people under 16 would benefit from support from ILF Scotland.”



- “Should start from 18 years old for as long as you need it. No cut off.”



- “If the age limit is linked to state pension it needs to go up from 64 to 67 years old and keep changing if pension age changes.”

Award Management



People discussed **Award Managers**. These are people who make sure the money from ILF Scotland is used properly to support the disabled person.



A lot of people agreed that the person who received the money from ILF Scotland should manage their award whenever possible.



Some said family members could become award managers but they might struggle with this role.



Many agreed that local authorities should not become the award managers. This is because of the different interests they may have.



People agreed that the disabled person should be at the centre in all of this. Whoever their award manager is should learn this.

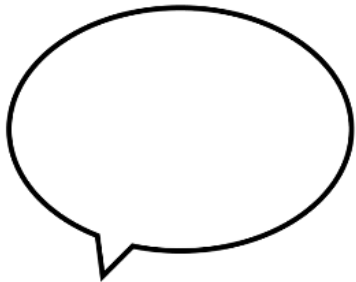
Key Statements:



- “Can be good to have an independent adviser. The way ILF Scotland do this it is great and there are other support organisations that can help with this.”



- “Carers who are Award Managers need support. Using an agency to do the payroll side of things is a good way to make things easier.”



- “Give the recipient of the fund the choice and control over managing the award.”



- “Family members don’t always understand that being an award manager makes you the employer. This is a big responsibility. Family members need help with this to do the role properly.”

Charging for ILF



People discussed **charging for ILF**.
This is how much someone should
pay towards their support.



People thought it was unfair to
charge people for the ILF service.
Some suggested taking the charge
off what the person is paid.



Some said that Local Authorities also
charge people. This could mean
some people paying twice.



People also said the Scottish
Government is going to scrap care
charges. Why would ILF continue to
charge after that?



Some said if there will still be a charge it needs to be clear how the charge is helping the Fund.

Key Statements:



- “Better to have no charge. Work out what the amount is with the charge already taken off and just pay that to the person.”



- “Should be agreed with the Local Authority that no extra charges can be added on that recipients are not expecting.”



- “Any charging that is in place should be the same with every Local Authority. Some don’t mind the idea of a charge as it is a way of valuing the support provided by ILF Scotland.”



- “It is too complicated to work out what charges people need to pay between ILF Scotland and the Local Authority. Would be better to have no charge.”

Capital Threshold



People talked about **capital thresholds**. This means how much money people can have in things like savings in the bank before they are not allowed ILF.



Some agree that there should be an upper limit on capital. Some think it would be unfair to people who are saving up.



Some think there should be different levels depending on the amount of capital.



Some think the cap is unfair in case someone receives an inheritance.



People were divided on this issue.
There are people against the capital threshold and people who think it should be higher.

Key Statements:



- “Agreed that there should be some level of capital limit. Not sure what it should be. Better to have a high limit.”



- “Lots of people in rural communities will inherit the family home. This should not count against them getting the funding as they are already very isolated.”



- “Those who are in a very good financial position for example millionaires should not get access to ILF.”



- “Should be set at the same level used for benefits which is £16,000.”

Relationship with Local Authorities



People discussed the **relationship between ILF and Local Authorities**. Both work together to give money to disabled people.



Some were worried that local authorities would look for reasons to cut funding. Some believe ILF Scotland should work separately from them.



Others believed social work should be present at reviews but others do not agree.



Some suggested that ILF Scotland and social work should meet before reviews. This would be easier on the recipient.



Some people believed that review times could be flexible rather than once every two years.

Key Statements:



- “The recipient should have the choice about Social Work being involved or not. Some Local Authorities want to have control over how people use their money. This is not how ILF is supposed to work.”



- “Joint reviews are a good thing if the social worker knows the person and the review is well planned with lots of notice.”



- “Important to have a relationship between ILF Scotland, Social Work and the recipient/award manager. Everyone is responsible.”



- “Assessors and Social Worker working together is the best way to get the best outcomes for the person.”

Additionality



People discussed **additionality**.

This is the idea that ILF money should pay for extra things on top of peoples care packages.



People agreed that ILF should still be additional to care packages. ILF Scotland considers additional needs while Local Authorities do the basics.



People agreed that ILF support is for the enjoyable things in life.

Necessities should be handled by Local Authorities.



Some thought having someone from ILF could at the review can challenge social work if the person's statutory needs are not being met.



People were worried that ILF will be used for basic care needs as part of care packages. This will prevent it from being used in ways for people to enjoy life.

Key Statements:



- “Makes sense to have it the way it is. Social Work cover care needs. ILF covers social and independent living outcomes.”



- “Worry about ILF becoming part of the day to day care package and not being used to try new things and make people happy.”



- “Social Work could be encouraging the person to apply to ILF to fund the things Social Work cannot fund.”



- “Local Authorities are cutting funds. ILF funding may be the only thing keeping someone out of residential care.”

Use of ILF Funding



People discussed the **use of ILF funding**. This is what people can use ILF money for.



People agreed there should be clear guidance on what the money can be used for.



Some feel the money should be used to help people feel more included in their communities. It should not be used for basic care needs.



People think choices should not be limited. It should also include things like travel for people in rural areas.



People agreed that disabled people should thrive and not just survive.

Key Statements:



- “Flexibility for everyone to request to use money how they wish socially.”



- “Holiday and respite as well as extra PA costs for travel can be a good use of funding.”



- “Transport is a major cost in rural areas. People have to use ILF for this.”



- “ILF is about ability not disability. Help people to do things that they want to do and give them a voice which is very important.”

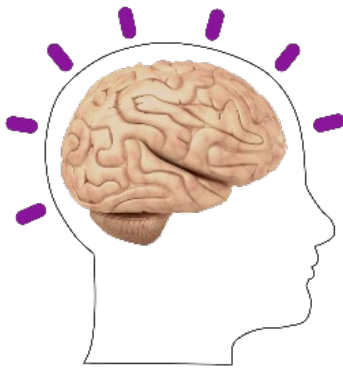
Who Should Get Money First?



ILF Scotland wants to make sure **people with the most needs** get the money they need. This means who might get the money first. This is called 'prioritising'.



Some people were concerned about older disabled people and those who are in rural areas. They thought they should be high on the list.



Some thought people with invisible disabilities should also be considered to get money first.



Some thought money should also be given to people whose carers are not able to cope.



Most people agreed that everyone should be able to apply. People's needs can change over time.

Key Statements:



- “The fund should be used to take away barriers so whoever faces the most barriers in their lives should be the top of the list.”



- “People with complex disabilities should be high on the list. Social Work will know who these people are.”



- “People with ‘invisible’ disabilities including psychological conditions should be prioritised.”



- “Think about the impact on unpaid carers and families. They are alone and their needs are not identified in the care plan. Families break down when carers can’t cope.”

Conclusion



People's comments were recorded during the events by ILF Scotland staff



The comments were then sent back to ILF. ILF thanks the groups for their feedback.



ILF will look over the comments and feedback made by the groups. They will send a report about this to a working group to decide what to do going forward. That group will tell the Scottish Government how they think the Fund should work when it is re-opened.