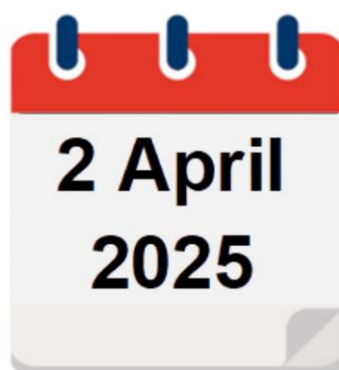




# Scottish Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

**2 April 2025 on Zoom**



## What this document is about



This is an Easy Read set of Minutes to say what happened at a meeting.



In this document the Independent Living Fund Scotland is ILF Scotland for short.



The meeting was on 2 April from 11 in the morning to 1 in the afternoon.

## Who was at the meeting

Jim Elder-Woodward - Chairperson

Andy Higgins

Steven Hanlon

Maree Todd

Chris Mercer

Chloe McKee

Gordon McKee

Justina Oguguo

Martha Shortreed

Joan Turner

Kate Walsh





## **ILF Scotland Staff**

Peter Scott

Lee House

Harvey Tilley

Emma O'Neill

Karen Burnett

Robert White

## **1. Welcome and introductions**



Jim welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Lee will record the minutes.

## **2. Minutes from the last meeting**



The minutes were checked and agreed.

Lee will send them to the Communications Team to put on the ILF website.

## **Actions from the last meeting that have been done**



1. Lee will send out the **terms of reference** so group members can vote on who they want as Chair and Vice chair.

**Terms of Reference** explain the work of an organisation and how it will be done.

2. ILF Scotland will draft a letter for Jim to send to ministers to ask about timescales for removing **Available Income** charges.



**Available Income** charge is an amount of money that a recipient pays towards their ILF amount.

A **Recipient** is a person who gets ILF money.

### 3. Ms Maree Todd, Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport



Jim asked everyone to introduce themselves to Maree before starting the meeting.



Each group member described:

- how ILF Scotland money had made a difference to their life
- what they enjoyed doing in their life because of having the money



Jim will email Maree with anything that could not be covered in the time they had at the meeting.



Jim asked Maree if available income would be stopped.

Maree said thank you to everyone for their hard work to get the ILF Scotland fund re-opened.



The Scottish Government is still deciding about having **non-residential care charges**.

These are charges for anything other than personal care which is free.

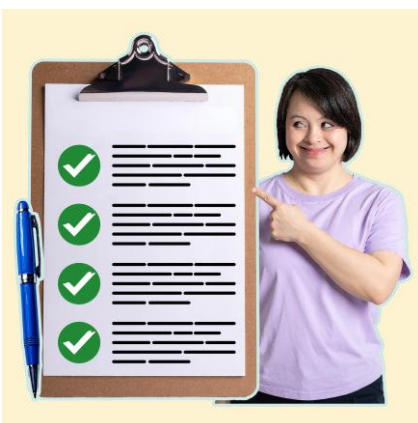


Maree understands why the group are frustrated that this is taking a long time.

ILF Scotland funding will not be stopped while she is Minister for Health and Social Care.



It has been difficult to do the **recommendations** of the **Feeley report** – this was the review of adult social care in Scotland.



**Recommendations** are what a group thinks should happen.

We are working with COSLA and setting up an Advisory Board to help with this.



Maree would like more money to be put into Social Care across Scotland.

The Scottish Government cannot make social care better if local councils are not involved.



If nothing changes there will have to be a change in the way it is dealt with.

Jim asked if a Group Member would be on the Advisory Board.



Maree said the Board will be led by someone who has:

- **lived experience** – this means what they know based on the things they have experienced or gone through
- the right skills to deal with a group of people with different opinions



Maree said the Scottish Government wants social care workers to have higher pay.

#### 4. What do we need to talk about?



Peter talked about the re-opened ILF Scotland fund.

It is the second year of the re-opened fund and there have been more than 7 hundred applications.



ILF Scotland will need to spend the money well and not spend more than is in the budget.

## 5. Review visit update



At a **review visit** an **assessor** visits a person who gets ILF funding to check:

- if they are getting their money okay
- if the money is helping them to live independently



An **assessor** checks if something is working well.

Robert said the assessor team did 1 thousand and 60 reviews in the last year. The time for reviews to be done has come down to 1 hundred and 21 days.



It takes a long time for local councils to tell people what package of care they will get.



The re-opened fund now has 7 hundred and 93 applications which each take around 90 days to complete.

This is still too long.

## 6. PVG Membership



**PVG** is short for Protecting Vulnerable Groups.

The PVG scheme checks if people have a criminal record and should not be working with children or adults at risk of harm.

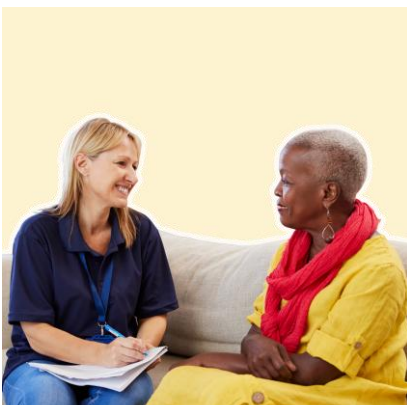


Karen talked about the new PVG laws that started on 1 April 2025.

Personal Assistants (PAs) must join the PVG scheme and get a PVG before they have done their job for 3 months.



There is information on the ILF Scotland website about this.



Karen has asked members for any information about PAs joining the scheme.

## 7. Feedback Strategy



All the feedback from the events is in a draft report for the Group to say what they think about it.

## 8. Anything else we need to talk about



Linda said there will be a 10th Celebration event happening in June and the team are working on getting a place to have the event.

## 9. Future meetings and arrangements



The next meeting is 29 May 2025.

There could be a joint November meeting with the Northern Ireland Advisory Group.



This is the end of these Minutes.

