

ILF group in East Ren.

Response of 15 people at a meeting organised by the group for ILF users and non-ILF users.

We would be happy for the Scottish Gov. to contact us about our response.

Question 1

These elements worked well:

- portability between local authorities
- very low admin. costs
- providing a familiar & consistent system; people generally knew what was happening and when with reviews etc.
- giving flexibility about how money could be used
- enabling a life of more than just basic care or existing for people with the highest support needs
- keeping people out of institutional care
- ensuring a base line care package of £ 340 from local authorities.
- very clear eligibility criteria

Not worked so well:

- bit of a postcode lottery; ILF users completely dependent on local authority advice for take up. (East Ren. has had a very active Independent Living Services team who have made use of the ILF as part of their direct payments work)

Questions 2 & 3

The principles of using the fund for the people with the highest support needs and using it for

independent living-in the sense of full, participatory lives-should be continued.

Some in the group felt that it would be good to use it for young people in transition to adult services; they and their families may be facing the brunt of changes to social care.

Others felt one-off grants to address particular needs would be a good use.

Others felt the present system of ILF awards should be replicated

Question 4

Some people felt that there could be some employment schemes for young people which might generate income.

Others felt that taxes should be raised and money more fairly distributed in society.

The involvement of businesses/charities could lead to rather short-term and conditional giving.

Question 5

Many people want to be supported to stay in their own homes and not have residential care.

Basic care are is not enough there should be a recognition that a social life is vital and that

self-esteem is very important & comes when people can cross barriers into what seems to them to be a richer, fuller life.

Question 6

The model that would best protect existing users and any resource that becomes available for people with the highest support needs to aid independent living is

num. 4. - to create a new partnership. This partnership should make use of-

: the current ILF expertise of assessors in Scotland and, if possible, some of those ILF employees from Nottingham

: the experience of disabled people's organisations (e.g. Centres for Inclusive Living) & carer's organisations in Scotland.

Question 7

No one should be discriminated against on the grounds of age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender re-assignment, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity and marriage and civil partnership.