

## CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

### Question 1

What aspects of the current ILF worked well and what elements did not work so well?

#### Works Well:

The members of our DPO have said that ILF works very well and gives them the money that is needed to help them live independent lives. It covers the extra costs that the Local Authority does not meet. The fund is very efficiently run with users having the same people to deal with all the time. This is in contrast to the lack of familiarity with local authority staff, time between contact and follow up with progressing any issues being very slow. The fund is set up well for service users with national guidelines which makes it portable across the country. It is also independent which allows the users to trust the set up and the people that they are dealing with.

#### What does not work well:

It is not fair on the people that cannot get access to the fund and the members expressed disappointment at the contribution charges that they face with the fund.

### Question 2

Should the money that becomes available after existing ILF recipients no longer need it be used in the same way for others in the future? If so, why? If not, how else might the money be used?

Yes, any money which is available should be used to target both new and existing users that have the greatest needs. Existing users should be protected as their needs cannot be adequately funded by the local authority. The fund should be open to new users or this will create inequality further within disabled people. The resources should not be taken off existing users as they need this money to live independently.

### Question 3

If the available resource is simply that which is transferred from the Treasury, how would you like to see it used if it was not to be a continuation of the existing approach?

In order to live an Independent life, disabled people need extra funding to support their needs this is not a choice but a necessity. Our members say, it is vital to them that the ILF funding continues. Existing ILF packages should remain the same so that the users can continue with their lives and extra money should be provided to help those in need who do not currently receive the fund as these needs are not met to the same extent as ILF.

### Question 4

What innovative ways might there be for increasing the overall amount of money in the pot?

In our consultation event we discussed different ways of increasing ILF resources:

- The government should put more money into the pot.
- European Commission
- Health Lottery

There should not be such a focus on the amount of money but on the needs of the people who require this money to be able to live an independent life. Members agreed that social care and support should be funded by the Scottish Government, through taxation as part of the social contract with disabled people. Local authorities should engage with service users on better ways to spend their money, work in coproduction and deliver services where they are needed the most.

### **Question 5**

With any available resource, where is the most effective area to target resources which can have the biggest impact on an individual's ability to live more independently?

The ILF already has the biggest impact on an individual to live more independently. Our users would not agree to change this criteria, as the funds are targeted most effectively at the moment. ILF should continue to be used in conjunction with local authorities care and support. ILF will ensure an individual's needs are met, even if the local authority, through budgetary complaints, will be unable to fund these. Existing packages must be protected so that disabled people can have an equal participation in society with the flexibility and portability of the fund continuing.

### **Question 6**

Once funding has been devolved to the Scottish Government, which option do you think will be most appropriate for Scotland?

Option 4 – The members would like to see the same set up as there is now but run in Scotland. This would make sure that it is open and transparent and kept independent from the Government or Local authorities. This would be the most efficient approach for the resources. This will ensure, the good advances in independent living; personalisation or coproduction of services and support will not be lost.

### **Question 7**

To assist with our partial Equality Impact Assessment in relation to the future development of a sustainable Fund to support disabled people in Scotland to live independently, please describe any equality issues (in relation to age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender re-assignment, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity and marriage and civil partnership) that you feel may arise and suggest ways in which these could be addressed.

Disabled people would live with inequality and poverty if they do not carry on receiving this money.