

Trust Deed changes allow greater access to independent living

The Independent Living Fund has announced a number of changes to its Trust Deed.

The changes, which were effective from 31 March 2009, allow more disabled people with the highest support needs and lowest incomes to apply for ILF funding.

The changes include the removal of the maximum care package limit of £785 per week, which previously applied to new applications and during the first six months of an ILF award. Also, the group of people that are prioritised when applying to ILF has been widened to include people with income no more than 25% above the Income Support level and those people receiving income-related Employment and Support Allowance.

Other changes include an increase in the maximum payment available from the ILF to £475 per week and increasing the maximum amount of capital and savings that ILF applicants and recipients are allowed to £23,000 (applicable from 6 April 2009). There is no change to the local authority minimum input of £320 per week in direct payments and/or services.

Patrick Boyle, Chief Executive of the ILF, said, "I am delighted to announce these changes to our Trust Deed.

"We have been working hard towards these changes for some time and we know there is a lot of support for them, particularly from local authorities and other organisations we work closely with.

"These changes will help us to continue our strong partnerships with local authorities to help more disabled people live independently."

Jack Blaik, Senior Social Worker for City of Edinburgh Council, said, “I do believe these changes to be very positive as they have removed many eligibility complications.

“The changes will simplify the decisions that Local Authorities also need to make regarding the best use of their own funds, in what should now be a simpler and more transparent partnership with ILF.”

The ILF wishes to support as many disabled people moving into independent living as it can, for example when someone moves from residential care into their own home. They have therefore agreed to allow local authorities to reduce their contribution towards the cost of a person’s support when moving to independent living, provided they continue to meet the minimum input of £320 per week in direct payments and/or services.

ENDS

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Notes to Editors

- 1 The Independent Living Fund (ILF) is an Executive Non-Departmental Public Body of the Department for Work and Pensions. The ILF is governed by a board of nine Trustees and it awards discretionary payments to severely disabled people to support the cost of their personal care and/or domestic assistance thus enabling them to live independently.
- 2 The ILF operates under the terms of a Trust Deed, which prescribes the conditions that need to be met in order to receive payments from the ILF.
- 3 The ILF is committed to advancing standards of independent living and the nationwide move towards greater personalisation. It has taken part fully in the piloting of Individual Budgets and will take a full part in the wider debate about the delivery of care and support in the UK.

- 4 The Department for Work and Pensions will commence Right to Control trailblazers in autumn 2010. Stakeholders will be consulted on how the ILF can be included in the trailblazers.
- 5 The ILF currently provides financial support to over 21,000 disabled people in the UK allowing them opportunities to be fully included in their communities.
- 6 The budget allocated to the ILF for 2009/10 is £350.7m for the whole of the UK.
- 7 Previously a person has been unable to apply to ILF if the joint package costs (ILF and Local Authority) would exceed £785 per week during the first 6 months. This condition has now been removed from the ILF Trust Deed. Therefore an application will be considered whatever the weekly cost of the package as long as the LA contribution is at least £320 and the overall cost is at least £500.
- 8 Since April 2008 ILF has prioritised applicants in receipt of Income Support (and income based Jobseeker's Allowance and Pension Guarantee Credit) and applicants with income of a similar level to Income Support. ILF will now also give priority to other applicants with income **no more than 25% above the Income Support level.**
- 9 ILF will also now treat applicants in receipt of **income related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)** as priority applicants (in the same way as applicants who receive Income Support or Pension Guarantee Credit). Applicants who receive contributions based ESA will undergo a financial assessment to decide whether they are eligible and whether they have priority (in the same way as candidates who receive Incapacity Benefit). The requirement for the joint package costs (ILF and Local Authority) to be at least £500 a week will remain.

- 10 The maximum weekly award ILF can pay has been increased to £475 per week for new applicants and ILF recipients who applied from April 1993 onwards. Any ILF recipients who applied prior to April 1993 can now receive a maximum weekly payment of £815.
- 11 For more information about the ILF visit www.ilf.org.uk