

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

## HEALTH & WELLBEING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

22 MARCH 2011

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b><i>CHANGES TO INDEPENDENT LIVING FUND - UPDATE REPORT</i></b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b><i>ALL</i></b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b><i>HOWARD COOPER</i></b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	<b><i>COUNCILLOR BOB MOON</i></b>
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>NO</b>

### **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 *Following the report to the Health & Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 9 September 2010, which reported changes to the Independent Living Fund (ILF), this report provides an update of developments in this area and their impact on DASS and the Council since that date.*

*This items falls within the Social Care and Inclusion portfolio.*

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 2.1 That Members of the Health & Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny Committee note developments linked to ILF changes in the last six months.

### **3.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 3.1 As above.

### **4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 The Independent Living Fund is a source of income administered through a national government charity to enable people to pay for a range of support services that are not statutory. The funds have been predominately used to support people with complex needs alongside other funding streams, including social care, to live independently.
- 4.2 In March 2010, ILF changed its regulations which significantly reduced access to this funding stream. However, soon after, new applications to the scheme, which were submitted before this date, were suspended without notice due to unprecedented levels of demand.
- 4.3 ILF subsequently took steps to reassure people who already had funding in place that this funding would continue.
-

- 4.4 The impact of this policy decision was felt locally, as there were thirteen people who had outstanding applications for ILF funding which were not processed. These individuals were mainly in the service areas of Learning Disabilities.
- 4.5 Since that time DASS has worked with these individuals and their families to develop support plans which will meet their Fair Access to Care (FACS) eligible needs and continue to provide opportunities for independence. While DASS has not been in a position to directly replace ILF funding, the introduction of personalisation has meant that the impact of these changes have been reduced.
- 4.6 There remain currently 118 people supported by DASS who receive ILF funding. This is a static position from the previous report provided.
- 4.7 In December 2010, a ministerial statement was made through the Department of Work & Pensions. On ILF, the following advice was issued:
- That there should be an emphasis on the critical role that local authorities have under their statutory responsibilities to consider the requirements of clients who would otherwise have received an additional ILF package.
  - The need for broader independent living strategies as part of the local authority brief in line with local priorities and accountability.
  - A view that, following consultation with disability organisations, local government representatives and other stakeholders, the current model of ILF was not sustainable.
  - The ILF should remain permanently closed to all new applications
  - That arrangements for the protection of existing recipients of ILF should be put into place.
  - That further consultation takes place following the publication of the report by the Commission on the funding of care and support on the theme of how best to support existing service users of ILF into the personalised social care system.
- 4.8 Further to this, the Joint Committee on Human Rights, which is part of the United Kingdom Parliament, has launched a consultation to find out what disabled people think about the right to independent living. The committee is accepting information from a wide range of stakeholders, disabled people, their families and groups and organisations that support disabled people. The consultation will end on the 29 April 2011. This initiative will further inform the national direction of policy in relation to independent living and providing people with disabilities choice, control and access to the right support.
- 4.9 As a result of this statement the department will need to respond to the future needs of people with disabilities with the understanding that ILF funding will not be available in the future.
-

## **5.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

5.1 Longer term evaluation will be required on the impact of the Council of the withdrawal of ILF funding.

## **6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

6.1 Not applicable.

## **7.0 CONSULTATION**

7.1 External to the council, undertaken on a national basis. Housing and support for adults with disabilities will be subject to local discussion and consultation through the Learning Disability Partnership Board.

## **8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

8.1 A possible increase in demand for non FACS eligible services provided through this sector, although this needs to be substantiated.

## **9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS**

9.1 None at present.

## **10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 None.

## **11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 None to report but potential impact on people with disabilities which restrict opportunities for independent living is still a consideration.

11.2 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

(a) No but any local plans to support people with disabilities to live independently would be subject to and Equality Impact Assessment.

## **12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 None.

## **13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

13.1 None.

### **REPORT AUTHOR:**

***Rick O'Brien***

***Head of Branch, Access & Assessment***

telephone: (0151) 666 4761

email: [richardobrien@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:richardobrien@wirral.gov.uk)

---

## APPENDICES

None

## REFERENCE MATERIAL

Joint Committee on Human Rights Consultation on Disabled People and their Right to Independent Living. [www.parliament.uk/jchr](http://www.parliament.uk/jchr)

## SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Health & Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	9.9.10

---