

Croydon Council

For General Release

REPORT TO:	Adult Social Services Review Panel 1st July 2015
AGENDA ITEM NO:	9
SUBJECT:	Changes to the Independent Living Fund
LEAD OFFICER:	Head of Provider Relations & Brokerage
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Louisa Woodley Cabinet Member for Families, Health and Social Care
WARDS:	All
CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT: This report gives an update on the work being carried out in Adult Social Care to mitigate the impact of the closure of the Independent Living Fund and ensure a seamless transition for Croydon residents formally receiving grants from the fund.	
FINANCIAL IMPACT ILF is transferring the budget for all Croydon ILF recipients to the local authority minus an attrition rate of 5%. This equates to over £900K in 2015/16. Currently it is believed that the impact will be at worst cost neutral.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- To note progress made towards completion of the transfer of ILF service users to direct funding by the council
- To be aware of future budget implications beyond 2015/16

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 Currently all 65 ILF award recipients are going through a Social Services transfer process. This will be finished by the end of July 2015. The process (although somewhat resource intensive) has been relatively smooth and so far service users have been happy with the outcomes

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Independent Living Fund, ILF, is a national resource dedicated to the financial support of disabled people with high support needs, enabling them to live in the community rather than residential care. It was first established in

1988 and whilst Government funded, the ILF is a non- departmental public body operating as an independent and discretionary Trust Fund managed by a board of Trustees.

- 3.2 In December 2012, the Minister for Disabled People announced that the ILF would close on March 2015 with funding and support for ILF users being transferred to local authorities in England. In November following a judicial review hearing the Court of appeal quashed the government's decision to close the fund but in March 2014 the Minister of State for Disabled People announced a new decision that the ILF would be closed on 30th June 2015.

ILF delivered a comprehensive support programme to prepare all service users for the transfer of support to the local authorities.

Croydon currently has 65 ILF award recipients.

- 3.3 The ILF was a support mechanism to allow some residents with high levels of support need to remain in the community. It also allowed them great choice and control. In some ways the ILF was a precursor to Direct Payments and Personalisation. Therefore it is incumbent on Adult Social Care to ensure that we use other personalised support systems to maintain or increase the levels of independence for the effected service users.

The government has transferred the ILF funding with a 5% attrition rate and ring fenced for this year 2015/16. Thereafter it will form part of the Local Government Revenue Support Grant (decreased 5% per year for attrition) but will not be ring fenced. In future years decisions will be needed as to the funding levels for the remaining users, and that this is done proportionately, fairly but recognising the need for budget restraint.

4. PROGRESS ON THE 65 CASES

- 4.1 The detail of the progress made against the 65 cases is as follows.

- 5 ILF service users were previously unknown to Social Services, known by ILF as pre '93 service users. This was before services were joint funded
- To date 55 cases have been reviewed and new support plans drawn up , and funding has been agreed
- 2 cases due to a change in family circumstances have declined a small amount of care for their family member
- 5 cases have received an increase in their care package. Increases have been due to carer's ill health or stress, a change in agency rates or change in circumstances.
- All cases are being scrutinised for Continuing Health Care Funding, CHC, and checklists completed. To date 5 cases are being forwarded to CHC for more in depth analysis.

- 4.2 Due to the knowledge and understanding of the project team the process has been largely untroubled and despite initial anxiety from many within the cohort of ILF service users there have to date been no reported complaints.

- 4.3 The use of existing direct payment process plus the opportunity to use new carers support mechanisms have helped ensure independence for those effected has been maintained.
- 4.4 Work will continue with these service users to ensure they are fully supported by the department and reviewed appropriately.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Formal consultation was conducted by central government and the ILF before the fund was closed. No local consultation was required, however we have kept in touch with all effected residents to keep them informed of the plans

6. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 ILF is transferring the budget for all Croydon ILF recipients to the local authority minus an attrition rate of 5%. This equates to over £900K in 2015/16. Currently it is believed that the impact will be at worst cost neutral to the Council budgets.

1 Revenue and Capital consequences of report recommendations

	Current year	Medium Term Financial Strategy – 3 year forecast		
	2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000	2017/18 £'000	2018/19 £'000
Revenue Budget available				
Expenditure				
Income				
Effect of decision from report				
Expenditure				
Income				
Remaining budget				
Capital Budget available	£900	£855	£812	£771
Expenditure	£900	TBC	TBC	TBC
Effect of decision from report	0			
Expenditure				
Remaining budget	0	TBC	TBC	TBC

2 The effect of the decision

No effect

3 Risks

- No risk in 2015/16
- Risks in future years to adult social care if sufficient monies are not transferred from the area grant

4 Options

As this is a response to statutory change no other options exist

5 Future savings/efficiencies

Any future savings and efficiencies will need to be incorporated in the wider savings agenda for adult social care provision

6 (Approved by: *[Lisa Taylor – Head of Finance and Deputy S151 Officer*

6. COMMENTS OF THE COUNCIL SOLICITOR AND MONITORING OFFICER

Not required

7. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

None

8. EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.1 None

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

9.1 None

10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

10.1 None

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