

4th October 2012

Dear ILF Team

Consultation – Closure of ILF

I write on behalf of members of the Denbighshire Learning Disability Forum to express their views/concerns regarding the proposal to close the ILF scheme and transfer the responsibility to the Local Council.

Denbighshire Forum was established in 1996 following Local Government reorganisation and the dissolution of the Clwyd County Forum. We have a membership of 280+. Views of members have been sought in a number of ways, regularly held executive meetings, monthly social events and one to one discussions.

In answer to your consultation I submit the views of members.

Question 1: do you agree with the proposal?

No The general feeling was that ILF should remain separate from the present LA provision.

Members felt that the ability to use the ILF in a flexible and creative way designed for the individual was crucial to the development of social and opportunities for integration in the wider community.

There would be a loss of control and freedom of action.

Parents were particularly concerned as to the difficulties their children would face when having to adjust to changes in routine which could impact on their health and well being resulting in need for increased on medical and social services which are already under severe financial pressures.

Question 2: what are the key challenges to you?

Members asked would the LA have to change eligibility criteria to conform to other provisions.

Would the KLA allow the current arrangements to continue? With the possible impact as stated above.

Would creativity be removed and a "one size fits all" policy be imposed.

Would the LA have sufficient staffing resources to undertake the additional assessments?



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Would the LA look to change the policy of parents employing family and friends, who have a much better understanding of the individuals personality, needs and aspirations.

The transfer of the funding should be ring fenced, not only in general terms but pro rata to the existing provision at present in place. Members expressed concerns that if this was not done then the LA may look to utilise the funds for other more politically acceptable schemes.

Question 3: what impact do you think the closure of the ILF might have on LA,s and the provision of care and support?

Will the closure of the ILF result in transfer of, not only funding for individuals but also sufficient to meet the LAs cost of the additional work of assessments and administration?

Will there be a need for additional training.

What systems will be put in place during the transition, payments must not be delayed during this time.

Will funds be made available for support and training in respect of Direct Payments and CDS as there will be an increased demand resulting on additional pressures on the service?

Question 4 pre 1993

Forum does not have any members in this category

Question5: How can DWP,ILF and the LA best continue to work with ILF recipients between now and 2015?

Members were adamant that communication was essential. The national news letter was praised but would like regular bulletins in respect of progress on the proposed closure.

ILF and LA should undertake face to face discussions with each family to discuss implications.

Essential that ILF and Las keep each other informed of progress and avoid duplication of information.

Members did have some concerns regarding the different recording requirements of ILF, CDS and DP which should be resolved between ILF and LA,s.

Other comments: Families felt that assessments would be carried out by the local social service team and particularly in the rural area will have a greater understanding and appreciation of the particular difficulties faced by these residents, which has not always been understood by the ILF.

Yours faithfully

Alan Benbow
Co-ordinator/development officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Benbow', written in a cursive style.

ILF Consultation Team
Ground Floor Caxton House,
Tothill Street
London
SW1H 9NA